



Major foresees a classless Britain

**'The power to choose
and the right to own'**

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday set out his vision of a classless Britain without barriers that would give its people "the power to choose and the right to own".

He accused Labour of gutter politics on the health service and issued firm warnings about the kind of deal on European union that he was prepared to contemplate at the Maastricht summit.

Mr Major's first address to the Conservative conference as leader earned him the kind of rapturous ovation the party used to give Margaret Thatcher, and he acknowledged her achievements at the outset, saying the greatest tribute Tories could pay her would be to do as she did: "Win, win and win again."

Then the prime minister unfurled the Tory banner for next year's election in a highly personalised and self-deprecating speech in which he spoke of "the long road from



Crowd pleasers: John and Norma Major, who left the platform to meet representatives after his standing ovation

Coldharbour Lane to Downing Street" and joked of his own education: "Never has so much been written about so little."

Mr Major promised that the Tories would offer "a strong Britain, confident of its position, secure in its defence, firm in its respect for the law; a strong economy, free from the threat of inflation in which taxes can fall, savings can grow and independence is assured." He emphasised his belief in "the self-respect which comes from ownership", and hinted at a change in inheritance tax, saying: "I want to see wealth cascading down the generations. We do not see each generation starting out anew with the past cut off and the future ignored."

A confident Britain was a force for good in a troubled world and, alone among all nations, stood at the hub of three great interlocking alliances: Nato, the European Community and the Commonwealth. The prime minister goes to Harare on

Monday for the Commonwealth heads of government conference, and yesterday he expressed the hope that South Africa would be accepted back as a member as soon as apartheid was ended.

On Europe, he said that

policy remained a closer union between states, not a federal merger of states. A single European currency was an uncertain prospect. "Any

treaty must provide for a separate decision to be taken not now but at a future date by the British parliament and British government. It's our decision. A single currency cannot be imposed upon us.

In no circumstances — now, not at Maastricht — will a Conservative government give up the right, our national right, to take the crucial decisions about our security, our foreign policy and our defence. There was no guarantee that the Maastricht negotiations would succeed and he would put the interests of the country before any agreement.

On the NHS, he reiterated the promises made by William Waldegrave on Thursday, pledging: "There will be no charges for hospital treatment, no charges for visits to the doctor, no privatisation of

health care, neither piecemeal or in part nor as a whole. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not after the next election. Not ever while I'm prime minister." Those who set out to frighten the weak and the old with carefully calculated smears, he said, belonged to the gutters of politics.

Mr Major, whose speech came on the day that inflation fell to 4.1 per cent, repeated his insistence that he would never "play fast and loose with the economy". Times had been tough and he had not forgotten what it was like when a business collapsed or became unemployed.

Under Labour, he said, a minimum wage would create unemployment, higher taxes would drive business talent abroad and inflation would hit those least able to protect themselves. "It may be true a Labour prime minister would no longer get his marching orders over beer and sandwiches at Number Ten. In these days of designer socialism, he'd get them over a G&T down at the old T&G."

Predicting that Labour's manifesto would be the biggest tax demand in history, Mr Major pledged that another Tory government would keep down taxes, but stopped short of promising further cuts. He

did, however, foresee a further ownership revolution to build upon policies that had resulted in four million families owning homes, eight million more owning shares, and four and a half million with personal pensions.

In the next parliament, he said, "we must go much further in encouraging every family to own and to save. To extend every family's ability to pass on something to their children, to build up something of their own."

The prime minister won

cheers for promising a crackdown on crime and a return to basics in education, and while there was not quite the frenzied flag-waving abandon of the Thatcher years, he had clearly won the warm affection of constituency activists.

Mr Major had approached the platform through the crowd and when he finished speaking, he was applauded for a full ten minutes. Then, as the conference sang "Land of Hope and Glory", Mr Major and his wife broke with tradition to leave the platform and circulate again among the representatives.

Speech details, page 4
Tory conference, pages 4 and 5
Leading article, page 15
Conference sketch, page 22

Arenas are getting bigger — but watching rock stars like Prince from afar is like listening to someone else's party, argues Sean French. What future, then, for opera on ever grander stages?

Weekend Times

MELLOW MAILER?



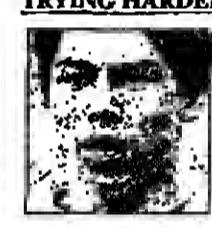
America wrecked Cuba, says Norman Mailer. But the great American pugilist's latest book is more a comedy of manners than a political rampage. Peter Stothard meets him in the Saturday Review

SNARK LARK



Butcher, Baker, Bandersnatch, Bellman — Lewis Carroll's Snark hunters, every child's delight, are now the heroes of a West End musical. Julia Briggs sets off in search of the ballad's source Page 14

TRYING HARDER



Rory Underwood was the hero of England's 37-9 Rugby World Cup victory over the United States yesterday (match report, page 40). Today Gerald Davies previews Wales's do-or-die match against Australia — plus a chance to win two tickets to the cup final Page 38

Paris, Bonn and Madrid throw down gauntlet

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FRANCE, Germany and Spain yesterday defiantly reiterated calls for a common European foreign and defence policy to be decided by majority voting, setting their countries on a collision course with Britain.

Their call came after a lunch in Paris attended by the three foreign ministers — Roland Dumas, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Francisco Fernández Ordóñez. They said the Western European Union should implement the EC's security policy, but made no mention of Nato. Most other EC members side with Britain in wanting to see European defence closely linked to the Atlantic alliance.

Their statement came less than two months before the Maastricht summit, and follows a firm rejection by Britain of any federal goal in the treaty on political union.

"In order to conclude in Maastricht and thus come closer to attaining European union, with a federal vocation, the three ministers recall that ... the implementation of a foreign and security policy constitutes the necessary component of political union," the statement said.

"It must include all the questions related to security and defence with the aim in the future, of a common defence."

Although the French had called earlier this week for "all colleagues on the same wavelength" to attend a special meeting on defence in Paris, yesterday's gathering was officially downgraded to no more than a working lunch.

France was piqued by last week's Anglo-Italian declaration, which linked European defence firmly to the Atlantic alliance.

The French immediately called for a meeting in Paris to discuss the various defence plans now on the table — a move that enraged the Dutch, who hold the EC presidency, and was studiously ignored by other member states. German

Weinstock rules out hostile BAe bid

By CAROL LEONARD AND ROSS TIEMAN

LORD Weinstock, managing director of GEC, has for the first time said on the record that he would not make a hostile bid for British Aerospace, the troubled defence and engineering group, unless a foreign predator appeared.

In an interview with *The Times*, Lord Weinstock described himself as a concerned customer of BAe, which he said he wanted to remain intact. He denied GEC owned any BAe shares. His statement was welcomed by Dick Evans, BAe's chief executive.

GEC, as one of BAe's major suppliers, would not make a hostile bid, said Lord Weinstock, but he reserved the right to launch a bid if a foreign predator were to appear on the scene.

Lord Weinstock said: "We have a considerable concern



Accuser and accused: Anita Hill, who gave testimony yesterday that Judge Clarence Thomas (right) had sexually harassed her at work ten years ago

Beleaguered US judge says 'no job worth this agony'

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

A DRAMA at the centre of a national debate turned uglier yesterday after Clarence Thomas, the US Supreme Court nominee, said no job was worth the agony he had endured following allegations that he sexually harassed a former personal assistant a decade ago. Minutes later, however, Anita Hill, a law professor in Oklahoma, said the judge had often turned the conversation to explicit sex when they ate lunch at work.

In a nationally televised hearing, Ms. Hill said that Judge Thomas boasted about the size of his penis and the pleasure he gave women and once asked, in their office, "Who has put public hair on my Coke?" She said he asked her for a "date" several times and, when she refused, talked about pornographic films.

Several Democratic senators, including Edward Kennedy, are dogged by publicity about their own peccadilloes.

Since the hearings are unlikely to establish "the truth", Mr. Thomas's fate will probably depend on how the senators' constituents react.

Republicans are nervous about a backlash from women voters if they are perceived to be dismissive of Ms. Hill's allegations.

But Democrats are worried that Mr. Thomas could be seen as a martyr to the attempts of liberals to embarrass President Bush.

Heightening the suspense were last-minute allegations from a second woman, Angela Wright, a former press secretary at the Equal Employment Commission in Washington while Mr.

Continued on page 20, col 1

Thomas was nominated. Mr. Thomas had said he had been "racking my brains and eating my insides out to think what I could do" to make Ms. Hill "think that I was interested in her in more than a professional way". He also apologised if he had ever said anything that had been misconstrued.

Their conflicting statements were released into an atmosphere of recrimination arising from an anguished national debate about what is acceptable behaviour between men and women in the workplace. For many people, Ms. Hill and Judge Thomas are symbols of the problem. Congress itself is caught in the storm amid media attention on its own exemption from laws that make sexual harassment illegal in America, while

several Democratic senators, including Edward Kennedy, are dogged by publicity about their own peccadilloes.

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Continued on page 20, col 1

Barnsley pioneers medicine sans frontières

By PETER DAVENPORT

FOUR staff from Barnsley hospital are to be sent for a five-day stay at the George V hotel-de-luxe in Paris, to pick up tips on improving life for patients.

A cleaner, a kitchen porter, a chef and a staff nurse will be visiting one of the world's most famous hotels at the expense of Trent Regional Health Authority. The cost of the trip is £5,322, which will be met from a fund of £25,000 set aside to enable NHS staff to travel abroad "collecting practical ideas" for improving the quality of service in hospitals.

Senior health officials insisted yesterday that the money would be well spent. This is the first time such a subvention has been approved, and it is hoped the scheme will be run annually.

All 3,000 staff at the 810-bed district hospital, which is among those consid-

ering an application to become a self-governing trust next year, were invited to enter a competition for cash awards under the scheme.

The four winners selected the George V because it has recently undergone a programme of "total quality management", aimed at involving all levels of staff in improving standards of service. A similar exercise is now planned for the Barnsley hospital.

The head chef will be looking at the hotel catering, the staff nurse at caring services, the cleaner at housekeeping methods and the porter will be investigating the front-of-house facilities.

The four, whose names were not disclosed yesterday, leave for Paris early next month and will present a detailed report on their return. George Steedman, the hospital's support services manager, said yesterday that they had been selected because they had produced a

good idea and because they had long records of loyalty, hard work and commitment. "We want to make sure that our patients get the quality of service they deserve," he said.

As a foretaste of what the future may hold for NHS patients in Barnsley, *The Times* yesterday compared the lunch menus available at the hospital and in the restaurant at the George V.

In Barnsley, the choice included braised beef, deep fried cod in batter, poached cod in parsley sauce, all with creamed or chipped potatoes, or a three-bean salad, followed by apple pie and custard, rhubarb fool, fresh fruit or cheese and biscuits, with tea or coffee.

A business lunch at the George V, priced at about £35, included partridge consommé with vine leaves and ravioli, roast shoulder of lamb with coconut and pineapple, pâtisseries, coffee, and a half-bottle of wine.



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Mixed emotions at the end of a long and winding legal road



Yesterday: the Beatles sowing Apple seeds in 1964

By ROBIN YOUNG

A BEATLES long-player failed to make a record yesterday when a £7 million courtroom battle between the group's Apple Corps and the American company, Apple Computer, was settled after 116 days in the High Court.

There had already been another ten days spent in the Court of Appeal and a one-day excursion to the European Commission in Brussels, and the case, centring on the use of apples as trademarks, had seemed set to break legal endurance records.

When both Apples finally got the pip with the law's delays, which threatened to draw the business out until next summer, the costs on both sides were already estimated

to have reached £7 million. What it cost the taxpayer to keep Mr Justice Ferris and Court 53 occupied for a year is additional to that amount.

The action brought by the British-based Apple Corps claimed the American computer company had flouted an agreement reached in 1981 to regulate use of the two companies' apple trademarks by putting its multi-coloured apple logo on musical computers.

The hearing started on October 29 last year, when the case was expected to last 12 weeks. A year later, when it was abandoned, fewer than 30 of the 80 potential witnesses had been heard.

The longest High Court hearing

to be one in which 191 days of evidence were heard before the parties decided to compromise.

Yesterday Gordon Pollock, QC, representing Apple Corps, broke the news of the settlement to the judge after a week's adjournment, which had been hoped only to save perhaps a month's worth of evidence.

"It has been a long, hard road," Mr Pollock said, telling the judge that the agreement which had been reached was for the action to be discontinued with no order for costs and with all the terms remaining confidential.

Mr Justice Ferris told the lawyers: "I do not know whether my surprise at this development at this stage outweighs my relief at not

having to write a definitive judgment, or perhaps my disappointment." Mr Pollock said: "Your lordship must be subject to a malstrom of emotions."

Most of the witnesses who had given evidence had come from abroad. Many were American law professors and legal experts from other countries called to give evidence on complex issues of foreign law. After they had been heard the judge granted Mr Pollock an interim order that issues of foreign law were not relevant in the case.

Other witnesses were Apple Computer's top executives. At least one, having waited two days while arguments continued about the admissibility of his evidence, fi-

nally went home in disgust. Even at the end, the parties found it was not simple to extricate themselves from the law's travails as they might have hoped. Mr Pollock, with the agreement of Christopher Carr, QC, representing Apple Computer, asked the judge to discharge all orders made in the case to date. As far as anyone could remember there were about 24, all in Apple Corps' favour.

The judge objected that this seemed improper and after 20 minutes' discussion it was agreed counsel on both sides could instead sign a minute agreeing not to seek enforcement. On that note the lawyers finally found themselves in harmony with the old Beatles hit "We Can Work It Out".

MICHAEL POWELL

Man, 35, is accused of killing girl

An unemployed man aged 35 was remanded in custody yesterday accused of murdering Lynne Rogers, aged 17.

Scott Singleton, aged 35, of Broadleaf, Crawley, West Sussex, appeared before Crawley magistrates accused of murdering the girl, from Catford, southeast London, at Rotherfield or elsewhere in Sussex, between September 3 and September 10. Her body was found beneath brambles in a copse off an isolated country lane near Rotherfield last month.

The girl, who lived in Glouster Road, Catford, had left home to meet a man for a job interview at Charing Cross station on September 4 and her body was found five days later.

Mr Singleton was remanded in custody until October 17, but with his consent will not be produced in court again until October 24. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Baker studies Thornton case

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is examining fresh evidence in the case of Sara Thornton, the woman jailed for life for stabbing her violent and alcoholic husband, to see if it merits a referral to the Court of Appeal.

George Delf, co-ordinator of the campaign to free her, believes the evidence, which was not called by the defence at the trial, supports the theory that she was provoked by her husband's behaviour. The material comes from the couple's GP, who visited their home in Atherton, Warwickshire, four months before the murder and heard Malcolm Thornton, while drunk, threatening to murder his wife.

Libel damages

Damages of £40,000 and costs estimated at £50,000 were awarded against *The Sport* newspaper yesterday after a High Court jury decided that Anthony Pargeter, aged 46, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, had been libelled in an article suggesting that a convicted killer, Jeremy Bamber, was innocent of the murder of his family. The newspaper denied libel, arguing that it had not accused Mr Pargeter.

Panama case

The Panamanian government was yesterday given extra time to prepare evidence for its High Court plea for continuation of freezing orders on \$6,000,000 (£3.5 million) held in London bank accounts which it says was misappropriated by Panama's former dictator General Noriega. The decision was opposed by Ramon Sieiro, the general's brother-in-law and by the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Adverts protest

Newspaper proprietors throughout Europe are to launch an advertising campaign next month against a proposed EC ban on tobacco advertising. The campaign starts in 100 newspapers and 200 magazines on November 11, when health ministers vote on the proposals. The European Publishers Council said: "We believe that the very viability of the press may be threatened."

Nursing win

The British Nursing Association won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that it had put patients' lives at risk by supplying a hospital with an unqualified nurse. The allegations appeared in the *News of the World* in May under the heading "I was bogus nurse for a year". News Group Newspapers Ltd, the publishers, accepted yesterday that the claims were false.

CORRECTION

In some editions of yesterday's paper Chatsworth was referred to as being in Devonshire. This should of course have read Derbyshire.

BA seeks big savings at loss making local airports

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is planning drastic action to stem mounting losses from its regional airports and short-haul operations from Gatwick.

Uniooo officials were called to a meeting with management yesterday and told that services from Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester — known as regional business units — were at an economic and competitive disadvantage.

At the same time, in a move which BA described as completely separate, senior managers at Gatwick were ordered to reduce short-haul costs by 30 per cent. Robert Ayling, BA's marketing director, said that the cuts were vital if the network's long term future was to be secured.

The airline has been increasingly concerned at the big losses being made by the three centres which provide hundreds of services a day to the Scottish highlands and islands, other domestic routes and to mainland Europe.

Much of the blame has been put on the fleet of ageing 1-11 jets which have been taken out of operations from Heathrow or Gatwick and based in the regions. The aircraft are becoming unpopular with passengers and use more fuel than newer jets used by competitors.

One of the solutions put to union leaders was to form a new company jointly with TPL — the parent company of Brymoor Airways and Birmingham European which is already 40 per cent owned by BA — and the Danish travel organisation Maersk. The unions rejected the idea, but after hearing gloomy profit forecasts agreed to cooperate in a joint working party to find a solution acceptable to both parties.

The regional services are included in the overall European operations and their precise losses are therefore impossible to calculate. The European services overall, however, are known to have lost £34 million in the past financial year. Many services, which may not make a profit in their own right, are maintained as feeders to bring



Roaring toothache: Dentist Peter Kertesz, more used to human patients, extracts an infected canine from Ruchi, one of only 400 surviving Indian lions, at London zoo yesterday. Born in captivity two and a half years ago, the lioness would have died from her condition in the wild

Last minute rush to register dogs

By RAY CLANCY

A LAST minute rush is expected to beat today's deadline for dog owners to register for an exemption certificate under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Only 3,000 of the estimated 10,000 owners of pit bull terriers have notified the authorities that they wish to apply for a certificate.

Some owners are unsure if their crossbreed should be registered. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said that such owners should consult a vet.

Nisha Khan, whose daughter Rukhsana, aged six, was recently savaged by a pit bull in Bradford, said he hoped that all owners would register their dogs. "We want our parks and streets to be safe for the little ones to play."

Yvonne Wilson, owner of the terrier, said she had arranged insurance for her dog. She is campaigning against the legislation and plans to take a case to the European Court of Human Rights.

To obtain their certificate

they must arrange third party insurance, about £10 per dog per year, have the animal neutered and arrange for a vet to identify the dog with a permanent tattoo and implant. The deadline for full registration is November 30.

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The Wood Green animal shelter in north London, which is managing the index, said that owners were registering all the time. The shelter expects 4,000 dogs to have been registered when the weekend's post is opened.

Under the legislation introduced in August owners of pit bulls and three other controlled dogs — the Japanese tosa of which there is one in Britain, and the fila brasiliensis and dogo argentino which have never been introduced here — must complete a form by midnight.

To obtain their certificate

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The wall carvings suffered extensive damage in ancient times, but looters in the 1970s used dynamite and crowbars to look for treasure in a cave beneath the funerary chambers. "It is a huge tomb, badly decorated, that has given us only fragmentary remains," Dr Ockinga said.

The tomb was identified as Senedjem's by an inscription over the portico describing him as "fan bearer on the right of the king, overseer of horses" and, most importantly, "the god's father". Dr Ockinga said the inscription showed that Senedjem was not only in charge of the upbringing of royal children, but also

Tomb of Tutankhamun's tutor is discovered empty

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE tomb of Tutankhamun's tutor has been discovered in southern Egypt. Although empty, and possibly never used for the burial of Senedjem, "the god's father", the reliefs and inscriptions in the tomb may shed new light on the family

origins of the pharaoh.

The discovery was made by Boy Ockinga of Macquarie University in New South Wales after three years of investigation near the town of Akhmin, 230 miles south of Cairo on the right bank of the Nile. Built some 110 ft up the face of an escarpment, the tomb had been ignored because of its poor condition.

The tomb has also given up clues to the possible fate of Nakhtmin, apparently heir to the throne of Egypt and victim of a military coup.

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found in Tutankhamun's tomb more than 60 years ago, was both a royal scribe and one of the pharaoh's generals. Since fragmentary statues of Senedjem later in his career call him "hereditary prince, chief general, king's son", Dr Ockinga believes that his son Nakhtmin was clearly designated as heir to the elderly Ay, and thus the next pharaoh of Egypt.

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Private school fees rise 10%

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

INDEPENDENT school fees are still running at more than twice the level of inflation but the runaway rises of last year have been halted, according to figures published yesterday.

Average costs are £3,500 a year for day schools and £10,000 for boarding.

Fees in day schools for 1981-2 have risen by 10.6 per cent, against 13.2 per cent last year. Boarding schools show a 9.6 per cent rise, against 12.3 per cent.

Among leading boys' boarding schools Eton is charging £10,800, against £8,496 last

year; Ampleforth £9,570 (£7,330) and Winchester £10,800 (£8,658).

For girls, Roedean is charging £10,740 (£8,655) and Cheltenham Ladies' College £10,020 (£7,930). Among the top day schools, Manchester Grammar for boys has fees of £3,266 (£2,871), and James Allen's Girls' school, south London, is charging £4,770 (£3,429).

Dr Woodhead said that in 1983-9, state costs for secondary pupils rose by 11.4 per cent, nursery and primary by 9.4 per cent — and independent fees by 10 per cent.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Goldsmith

versus

Private Eye

Richard Ingrams, editor of Private Eye, had no conception of the peot-up anger he was unleashing. He was making the mistake of seeing James Goldsmith through English eyes, as though he were an Englishman. While in



Fran Fallon on Sir James Goldsmith — The Sunday Times tomorrow

A lesson in the polite refusal of courtesy calls

By JOE JOSEPH

heroically by The Polite Society in an attempt to make up for regular human contact. Today's a good day to offer it," he said.

If any two people need to share a friendly pot of tea and a few milk chocolate Hobnobs, they are the Hon James Tennant and Charles Saatchi, neighbours to Chelsea's St Leonard's Terrace. Mr Tennant seems to have a habit of upsetting his neighbours. Friction between the Tennants and the Saatchis flared in the newspapers recently when the Saatchis got upset about anti-semitic

sands of people are aching for regular human contact. Today's a good day to offer it," he said.

The scene moves to St Leonard's Terrace, London SW3. A doorbell is rung. "Ah, Mr Tennant. It so happens that today is National Courtesy Day and the Rev Ian

Gregory of The Polite Society says it's a good opportunity to ask somebody we don't know very well round for coffee, tea, dinner, or even breakfast, to get to know them better. He says thousands of people are aching for regular human contact and that today's a good day to offer it."

"Oh, I see. Well, the problem is, well, we are just leaving for the country, I'm afraid. We are an active part of the community here, very involved in local citizens' groups, but we do have building work to attend to in the

country, so I'm afraid we won't be able to invite anyone round for anything."

A telephone rings in the advertising office of Charles Saatchi. "Actually, he's out at the moment," a man said. "Do you know if he has any plans to invite Mr Tennant round for a chat and some Hobnobs today?"

"That I can't comment on." "Will he call me back to let me know when he returns to the office?"

"I think it's unlikely."

"Oh well. We did try, Rev.

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Suspended sentence for head guilty of cruelty to children

By RONALD FAUX

THE headmistress accused of running an authoritarian and dictatorial regime at a special school for handicapped children was given a suspended sentence yesterday after admitting three charges of cruelty.

Judge Jolly at Preston crown court told Brenda Ford, aged 52, of Scalehall, Lancaster: "I have considerable sympathy for you, but I think it is totally necessary to make clear society's disapproval whilst acknowledging, in your case, that you

Parents of dead babies may sue

By PETER VICTOR

THE parents of babies who died or became ill with mystery breathing problems in a Lincolnshire hospital called for a public enquiry yesterday and said they would launch an action for damages. They are also considering starting a private prosecution if the Director of Public Prosecutions does not press charges in connection with the deaths.

Four babies died at Grantham and Kesteven general hospital between January and April and eight became ill. Martin Gibson, the hospital's general manager, called police after an unusually high level of insulin was found in the blood of a child who collapsed.

Detectives consulted medical experts on the misuse of drugs and looked particularly at the effects of insulin and potassium chloride, a substance used to treat dehydration. A nurse, aged 22, who was interviewed by detectives, is on extended leave and police bail. Police sent a file on the case to the DPP last month.

The parents said they were worried about the time being taken to reach a decision and feared that the affair might be swept under the carpet. A spokesman told a news conference at Grantham: "They want to know what happened to their kids."

TV auction result out next week

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WINNERS and losers in the Channel 3 licence auction will be named next Wednesday at 10am, the Independent Television Commission said yesterday.

The ten commission members concluded their final deliberations by lunchtime yesterday. Jittery bidders were then faxed a statement advising them of the result.

Results of the auction, which could lead to the biggest shake-up of commercial television since independent television began in 1956, will be announced simultaneously on Stock Exchange screens.

Many bidders interpreted yesterday's announcement as evidence that the commission has not invoked the exceptional circumstances clause to let in a lower cash bidder. If the commission did not announce the date of the result yesterday, bidders would have been summoned for further talks in the next two weeks.

Yesterday's news may worry Thames, TV-am, London Weekend and Granada, all of which have been outbid by newcomers and would clearly have benefited from use of the clause. However, it is thought that the initial quality threshold has been tough enough to weed out most of the challengers.

Muslim strippers face up to community's outrage

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TWO Muslim women will brave the outrage of their community tomorrow night by going on stage to perform a striptease show before a largely Asian audience in a south London night club. The women say they have received death threats and abuse as a result of their decision to flout the norms of their Muslim culture.

Zarina Ramzan, aged 24, and Qamar Ashraf, aged 19, will defy Islamic law, which demands that women go covered in public. The Koran clearly commands modesty of dress and behaviour for men and women.

Iqbal Sacranie, of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, and chairman of the Balsam mosque, denied there was any organised community action

TED BATH



Death threats: Qamar Ashraf, top, and Zarina Ramzan

involving children at the school not to be proceeded with. Earlier, Timothy White, for the prosecution, had told the court that the allegations which the Crown would have relied upon were that some children were force-fed and required to eat their own vomit.

Judge Jolly said yesterday that the prosecution had mentioned various generalised allegations which were not substantiated by specific pleas. "My task is to sentence you for the specific pleas."

He told Ford that she had been wrong in failing in her prime responsibility, which was to look after herself so that she would be fit and well to look after other people.

Terence Righy, for Ford, said the allegations she had admitted of depriving a child of a drink of Ribena, of slapping a child on the thigh and of pulling a child's hair to draw attention to work on her desk. "There is no allegation that these children suffered any physical injury in consequence," he said.

Such was the success of Scotforth House that the school became much larger, he said, with children from primary age to those aged 16 years with learning difficulties. Teachers and helpers were always in short supply and no instruction or training was given to teaching staff by the local authority. The teaching staff became increasingly overstretched and Ford's health deteriorated.

Parents of children at Scotforth House have demanded a full independent public enquiry into the way the school had been run. A spokesman said: "We are not satisfied by this outcome. These were isolated incidents over a period of 18 months, but we believe they are the tip of an iceberg. The education authority was told in 1977 about the fears of parents of children at the school."

An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the treatment of autistic children at the school has been ordered by Lancashire county council. Louise Ellman, council leader, said: "Our sole concern is for the wellbeing of children in our care."

Many bidders interpreted yesterday's announcement as evidence that the commission has not invoked the exceptional circumstances clause to let in a lower cash bidder. If the commission did not announce the date of the result yesterday, bidders would have been summoned for further talks in the next two weeks.

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WHEN police found the Iraqi teenager she was standing at Victoria station trying to sell her music cassettes. She had been sent to London by her parents, senior figures in the Iraqi community in Sweden, for an arranged marriage. Beaten by her would-be husband, she fled into an unknown city.

Last night the girl, aged 16, was safe in a London hostel, rescued during Operation Whittington, a police search of central London this week for children prey to the degradations and miseries of an adult world. A squad of 30 officers, working for two days from 3pm to 2am, yesterday reported stopping more than 200 people and recovering 15 children.

They ranged from innocents abroad to persistent runaways no longer wanted by their parents, a male prostitute, aged 15, and a girl, aged 16, found drinking with vagrants. A similar operation, involving plain-clothes officers who normally work in juvenile protec-

tion and street offences units, was carried out for a day in July. Police found six children at risk and decided to repeat the exercise.

One of the team, PC "Icky" Hicks, searching the area around Leicester Square, spoke of the problems facing the police: "I don't think most of them realise the dangers. If we can catch them early there is a chance. But within days or weeks they learn to lie, to give false names and addresses. If we get one youngster back with their families or to a place of safety and they stay there, that is our measure of success."

The parents of three girls, aged 12, 13 and 14, from East Ham, east London, readily accepted their children back. They thought the girls were staying with a friend. Police

found them at 9.35pm close to Piccadilly. PC Stephen Meek said: "We followed them round for about 20 minutes as they looked completely out of place. That area is ripe for female vice but they were not aware they were in any danger. They only started to realise it when we told them we had followed them and they hadn't noticed. We could have been anybody."

Detective Inspector David Eyles, one of the officers leading the operation, said that none of the children discovered in July had been found again and the operation suggested the number of children at risk was not as serious as suggested.

Inspector Charles Barber said the trio of girls was typical of children drawn to the West End. By yesterday morning she was found back in the West End, unaware of the risks they

Concern for youngsters found wandering Britain's cities at night

ANDY BAVERSTOCK



Lifeline: policewoman Angela Hooper checks the birth certificate of a girl she spoke to in the West End

Police sweep streets for runaways

Plain-clothes police on a mission among London's young runaways have netted a mixed bag of innocents and hardened street kids, reports Stewart Tindler

faced. Some, however, are far from innocent. A male prostitute, aged 16, originally from Lincolnshire, was found in Shaftesbury Avenue with 14 condoms in his bag, a collection of pornographic photographs and no desire to be helped.

"I can take care of myself," he said. "The police don't do me any favours by doing this. I'm only doing it until I get a job that pays enough money. But what can you do that can pay £60 for half an hour?" He was put in a home for the night.

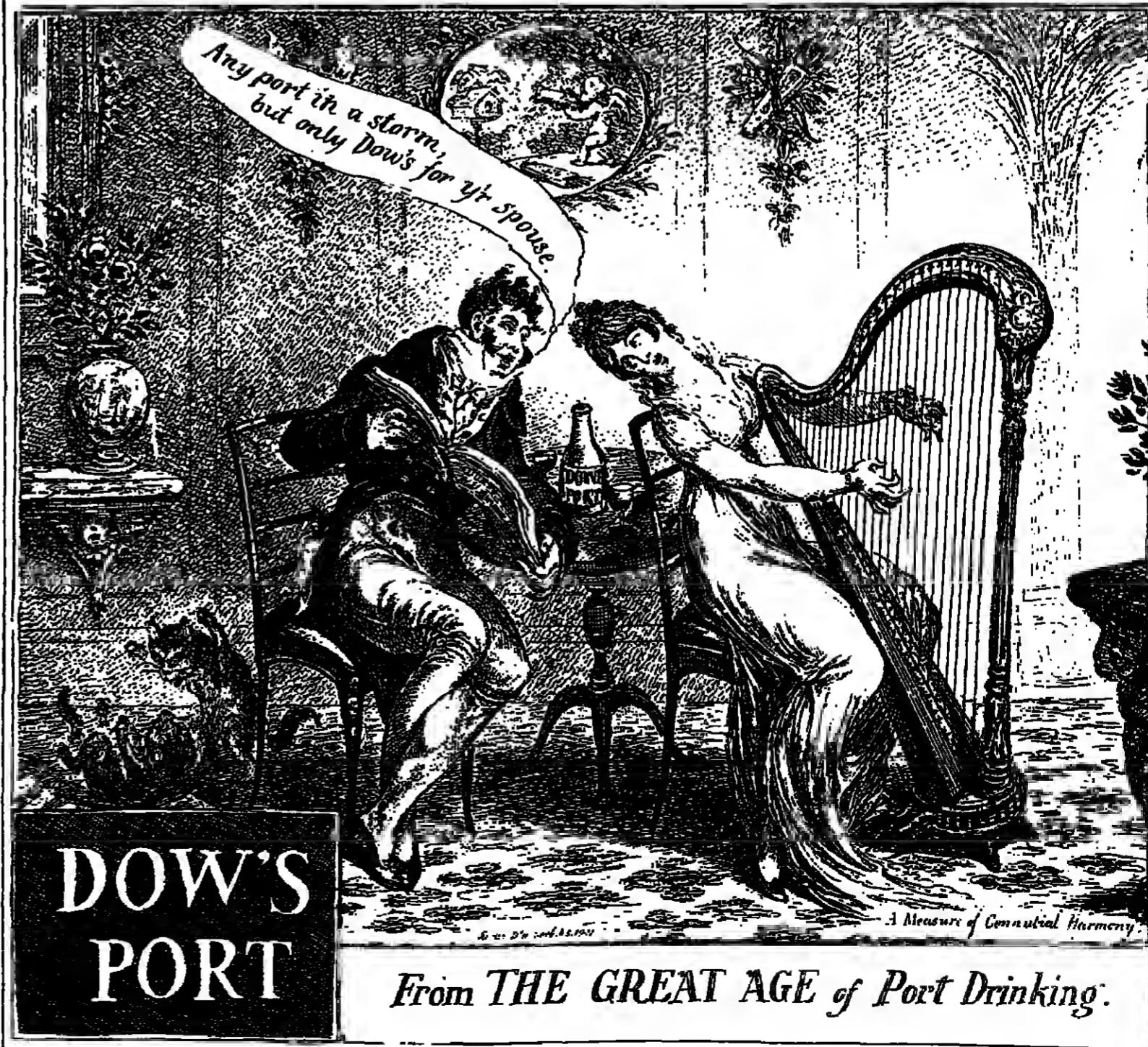
Two girls, aged 14 and 15, held at Bow Street, had run away from their homes in Watford that evening. Both had run away before and their parents would no longer take them back. They were put into care. Another girl, aged 16 and found drinking with vagrants. A similar operation, involving plain-clothes officers who normally work in juvenile protec-

YMCA offers hostel places

OFFICIALS of the YMCA are to take to the streets of London to offer young homeless people accommodation in a new hostel officially opened yesterday (David Young writes).

Andrew Harris, the YMCA's director of housing and hostels, said that the main objective was to provide accommodation before young people became homeless. "But we recognise that, in the present crisis, we must also provide for those forced to live on the streets," he said.

The hostel, in London's West Cromwell Road, was opened with funding from the environment department. It will provide accommodation for about 400 people, plus food and medical support.





By JOHN WINDER
AND ROBERT MORGAN

JOHN Major yesterday set out his vision of the Britain of the future. He wanted, he said, to work for a nation that was the best educated and the best governed, where schools and universities were the finest and accessible to all. He wanted a Britain where inner cities did not mean deprivation and no one had to go in fear at night.

"I should like to live in a world where opportunity is for everyone, where peace is truly universal and where freedom is secure," he said.

As the prime minister entered the conference hall at Blackpool yesterday for the final speech of the conference he was greeted with prolonged cheering and clapping. When he sat down after his 37-minute speech, he received a rapturous standing ovation which seemed destined to match those accorded to Margaret Thatcher until it was cut short by the singing of *Land of Hope and Glory*.

Mr Major opened with a generous tribute to Mrs Thatcher. "The Britain she left us is immeasurably stronger than the Britain she found. Above all, she helped others to believe in us, and us to believe in ourselves, and on those foundations she laid three

great election victories." The greatest tribute to her was to do as she had done, to win and win again and again.

On Labour allegations about the national health service, he said: "There is only one way to deal with a lie: nail it to the wall of truth." He added: "We have all been brought up with the health service. We use it, we cherish it. We are proud of it."

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the health service, he said: "Under this government the national health service will continue to offer free hospital treatment to everyone. There will be no charges for hospital treatment, no charges for visits to the doctor, no privatisation of health care, neither piecemeal, nor in part nor as a whole. Not today, not tomorrow, not after the next election. Not ever while I am prime minister."

Broadstairs and a grocer's daughter from Grantham. "We don't need lectures in the Conservative party about opportunity. We are the party of opportunity," he said.

He went on to set out what the Conservative party now offered: a strong Britain, confident of its position, secure in its defence, kind in its respect for the law. It also offered a strong economy, free from the threat of inflation and in which taxes could fall, savings grow and independence was assured.

He summed up his programme for the Nineties in a single phrase: the power to choose and the right to own.

He promised that Iraq's nuclear weapons capability would be destroyed. "I hope it will go peacefully. If not, it must go by force."

On Britain's role in the world, the prime minister said that Britain, along with nations, stood at the hub of three great interlocking alliances: Nato, the European Community and the Commonwealth. At the Commonwealth conference next week, Britain had to persuade 50 nations, some with a chequered political history, to a formal commitment to democracy and human rights, he said. He hoped to see South Africa return to the Commonwealth.

Turning to the Community, he said: "I believe strongly in partnership in Europe. Britain is a great European power, and she has gained from membership of the community. That is the verdict of those people in our country who live by business and trade, the very people on whom our prosperity and jobs depend. But it must be the right Europe."

He wanted a community that would embrace the new democracies of Eastern Europe, a single open market, with common rules that were obeyed. "We need a system that can deal effectively with those who call themselves good Europeans but who hijack lorries or hold up free trade," he said.

The idea of a single European currency had enormous practical and political ramifications and, at best, was an uncertain prospect. "Any treaty must provide for a separate decision to be taken – now or at a future date – by the British government and the British parliament. It is our decision. A single currency cannot be imposed upon us. I would not accept on behalf of Britain any treaty which sought to impose a single currency at however distant a date."

Britain already worked closely with its European partners in financial, foreign and defence policies. When national and community interests coincided, common action was only common

sense, but in no circumstances would a Conservative government give up the national right to take crucial decisions about security, foreign policy and defence.

He offered no guarantee of an agreement at Maastricht in December because it was no easy task to get 12 nations to agree and, for his part, he would put the interests of this country before any agreement and not any agreement before the interests of the country.

"I hope we can reach agreement. If we do, I will submit that agreement to parliament, for it is here in Britain that the crucial decisions must be taken, not in the European parliament and not in the council of ministers, certainly not in the commission," he said. "It will be for parliament to decide on behalf of the people of Britain who elected it."

Referring to the latest inflation figures, he said that, for the first time in a generation, inflation was down to German levels. "They said we could not do it. We did it, and in just one year." He went on: "We can now see the way ahead out of recession to the recovery that will bring investment, to the investment that will bring jobs."

Mocking Labour's plans, he said that the next Labour manifesto "will be the biggest tax demand in history".

He pledged the government to keeping personal taxes down and said that lower taxes gave people more choice. In the Eighties the Tories had started a revolution but it was not complete. In the 1990s, they would extend savings and ownership in every form. They now had the chance to make enduring change for people in their middle years were inheriting homes, businesses and firms on a scale never before seen.

"I want to see wealth cascading down the generations. We do not see each generation starting out anew, with the past cut off and the future ignored. So in the next parliament, I believe that we must go much further in encouraging every family to save and to own."

Labour, he said, fostered the old, false and futile divisions based on class and envy. "Our task is to end them for good."

In his classless society, he wanted to see a tapestry of talents in which everyone respected achievement, where every promotion and certificate was respected and each person's contribution valued.

But there could be no harmony in a lawless society, and the government was going to crack down on crime.

Speaking about planned improvements in education, Mr Major said: "A great deal has been written about my education. Never has so much been written about so little. (Laughter) Perhaps that is why I am so keen on the subject."

He went on: "It will take more than platitudes to brighten the years of left-wing vandalism in our classrooms. We will take no lectures from those who led the long march of mediocrity through our schools."

"I will fight for my belief in a return to basics in education. The progressive theorists have had their say and they have had their day."

Applause greets castration call

By PETER MULLIGAN

A CALL for the castration of child abusers and rapists was applauded by the Tories yesterday during a debate marked by anxiety over standards of care and control of children.

Geoffrey Dickens, MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, roused the conference when he announced his prescription for molesters and rapists who offended more than once. "Castrate the huggers," he said.

His was the bluntest in a series of speeches from the floor which underlined unease at family breakdown, lack of supervision and the involvement in riots of children as young as six.

Mr Dickens lifted a debate on the family when he described his dream of a country where women could walk without fear and children could grow up without risk of abuse. He claimed ministerial backing when he urged the recruitment into social services departments of "streetwise grannies" who would not be "fobbed off" by parents abusing children.

Virginia Bottomley, health minister, responded by highlighting the Children Act, which comes into force on Monday and which, she said, would tackle abuse head-on.

She acknowledged that social workers had made mistakes in the past but said that the act put the emphasis in the right place: on children themselves and on their families.

CHILDREN

She said it was intolerable that children should become the victims of abuse while in care or be snatched away from home unless they were in serious danger. She added: "Time and time again, from

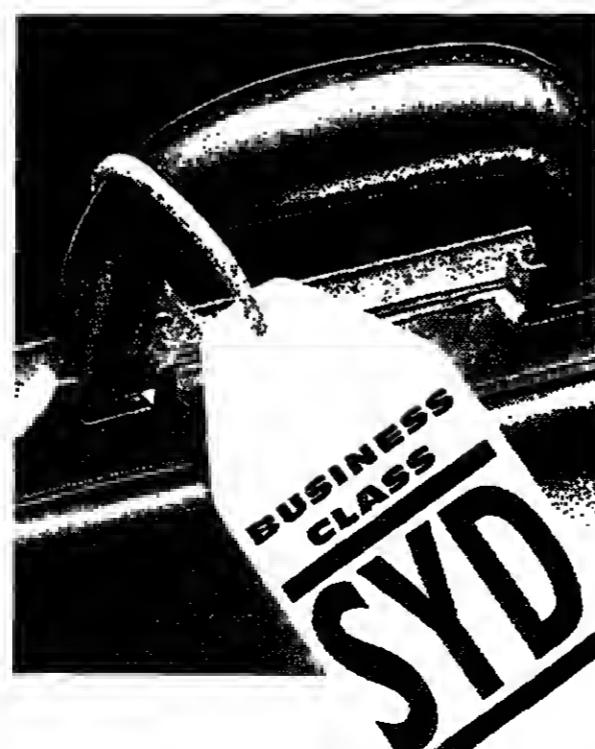


Bottomley acknowledged mistakes in social work

so-called joyriders to horrific instances of child abuse when the basic cohesiveness of the family unit breaks down, crime, degeneracy, violence and horror break to the surface of our society. When parents give up caring children, sometimes literally, run riot."

Mrs Bottomley concluded: "The challenge now is to work within the act to eliminate the tragedies of failure."

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Patten urges mass phone protests on broadcasting bias

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE supporters were urged yesterday to jam the switchboards of broadcasting organisations when they wanted to protest about alleged anti-Tory bias on radio and television.

The next issue of the party newspaper is to contain the addresses and telephone numbers of all the broadcasting organisations to help the Tory offensive against perceived bias.

With both main political parties carrying out intensive pre-election campaigning, Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, gave his endorsement to an all-out effort to combat alleged anti-Conservative bias by broadcasters.

"I know that many of you are deeply concerned about bias in broadcasting and often too often, understandably so," Mr Patten told the conference. "When you are angry about bias in a programme on BBC, ITV, whatever, tell me by all means, but more importantly tell them, phone them, write to them, above all phone them on the spot. If necessary jam the switchboards.

"If you don't like the Six O'clock News or Nine O'clock News, if you don't like Panorama, then phone up." The party was not asking for Conservative broadcasts but it had a right in a democracy to ask for fair broadcasting, he said.

His call for action to combat alleged bias delighted the party's rank and file who are concerned that the party is

failing to get its message across effectively. In a further revelation of the techniques the Tories will pursue in the run-up to polling day, Mr Patten said each constituency should have teams of workers to write letters to local newspapers, monitor all broadcasts, and call to 100 phone-in programmes.

He admitted that the last year "had not been easy for the party" and he was critical of the way in which the Conservatives had failed to give greater attention to organisation during Margaret Thatcher's years in power.

"I am not sure that we have always given political organisation the priority it deserves," he said. "It was complete bluge to suggest that political organisation did not matter.

Recognising the party's failings in campaigning, he said it must look harder at how it operated and do it much better. "We cannot go on taking the party organisation seriously for six months before an election and forget about it for the four and a half years after it." He said that the party would have to continue its vigilance after the general election.

Mr Patten promised fuller discussion throughout the party on its future funding and organisation. After recent revelations about big donations to the party's coffers from foreign businessmen, Mr

Party swings to same old song with new melody

They hummed along to fresh interpretations of familiar themes, but Robin Oakley hears discordant echoes of a song for Europe

It was / instead of we. Self depreciation was never Her line. And there were other changes. As with Europe, John Major's crucial keynote speech showed him changing the Tory party more in style and tone than in substance. The essentials of economic management remain the same: privatisation; fighting inflation.

But with the need to battle those "time for a change" arguments in mind, John Major offered a new flavour of Conservatism. The boy from Coldharbour Lane who preaches the classless society was able to remind the national television audience that the past two leaders before him were a builder's son from Broadstairs and a grocer's daughter from Grantham and to declare with conviction that the Tory party was the party of opportunity.

He declared that the Tories were not only the friends of the national health service but part of it. He is coming at the C2s from a different angle.

We wondered if it was to be continuity or change as the Tories moved into their first conference since Margaret Thatcher lost the leadership and Mr Major gained it.

Through the week, the answer seemed confused. Government competence is not an exciting theme. "Getting on with the job" sounds too much like waiting for something to turn up and praying for people to start spending the interest rate cuts they are still saving. Conservatives kept looking for the string on which to thread their heads. And perhaps it is too much to expect of a party 12 years in office to produce as many new ideas as they did to the pre-election conference of 1986.

We heard rather too much of what they are against — which seemed to be mostly the trade unions — and little of what they were for. But slowly, after a scratchy start, the party got over its nervousness about Europe, its hang-ups on the health service. And Mr Major's speech offered a freshness, a new style that was widely welcomed. He remains the party's biggest electoral asset.

The Tories left Blackpool with a better pitch on the health service. Tough words from Mr Major and from

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, should calm the privatisation scare and if the argument is switched to one purely about funding, then Labour has its weak spots too.

Mr Major has at least a good holding line on Europe, a subject on which the wider party takes a harder line than his MPs, even if the substance has changed little.

The remaining problem is Mrs Thatcher. In dealing with that question the party opted to fight an election rather than contemplate its own navel, not repeating Labour's mistake of the Eighties. But we saw flickers of the kind of split between the parliamentary party and the constituency activists which bedevilled Labour politics for so long.

The cheers and foot-stamping for Mrs Thatcher were genuine as the platform went through the ritual of what one senior Tory called "showing them the body". And the Tory hierarchy remain nervous about her disruptive potential. If they were not, we would not be seeing Willie Whitelaw urging her publicly to accept that the party is under new management.

But as senior figures were pointing out on the Tory cocktail circuit, the same people who cheered Mrs Thatcher's final-day speeches often used to turn up and applaud the fringe meetings at which Michael Heseltine outlined an altogether different version of Toryism.

"The Tory party," said one, "is not about policy. It is about power and the people who can provide it." That is why, when Mr Heseltine strode back onto the conference platform and beat the Tory tribal tom-toms, the feelings about the way of Mrs Thatcher's going and his part in it were so rapidly forgotten. Mr Heseltine has star quality too, and never mind if he comes from a different firmament. It is not a sentimental party.

The hope is that now the keys have been handed over Mrs Thatcher can be persuaded to keep quiet about the new people's taste in curtains. But the party managers fear that the question of her relationship with the new team will become inextricably mixed up with the issue of Europe, making both even harder to resolve.



Engaging performance: Chris Patten calls for action

Councils to be stopped from favouring own staff

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to tighten rules on the contracting out of local authority services to prevent councils awarding themselves most of the contracts.

Although councils are required by law to put services such as refuse collection and street cleaning out to private tender, more than two thirds of contracts are still awarded to their own staff.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, says he believes that many councils have deliberately drawn up contracts in such a way that

only their own staff can win them. In calculating the cost of an outside bid, councils have also been including the cost of making their staff redundant, putting private firms at a significant disadvantage.

The environment department has drawn up draft legislation to prevent the loading of redundancy costs on to tender prices.

It will also ban councils from specifying working practices for staff employed by contractors and will lay down new guidelines on the assessment of tenders to ensure that councils cannot favour in-

Man from the people

THE image makers may not have got to work on John Major but the party managers were determined that he would make a dramatic entrance to the conference (Richard Ford writes).

A flurry of activity at the back of the hall indicated that the prime minister was to make a theatrical arrival. Mr Major and his wife Norma looked apprehensive as they stood with Chris Patten, the party chairman, on a staircase, awaiting the moment to sur-

prise the faithful. Then to the strains of Johann Strauss's "Radetzky March", Mr Major walked into the hall and on to the platform, shaking hands with party workers.

The idea was to present an image of him as a man from the people and at ease with the people. Unlike Labour, which ended its conference with a rendition of "We are the Champions", the Tories stuck with their traditional "Land of Hope and Glory" and "I Vow to Thee my Country".

At present councils are required to put only services such as street cleaning and refuse collection out to tender. The bill will require them to open to competition white collar tasks such as legal and financial services too.

The council tax bill will be placed on a "fast track", with government business managers ready to use guillotine procedures to ensure that it reaches the statute book by the end of March.



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Replacement lined up for Endurance

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE officials are close to clinching a deal in charter a Norwegian icebreaker to replace the Falklands veteran HMS Endurance in the south Atlantic this winter.

Although officials are still refusing to acknowledge the decision to scrap the Endurance, Tom King, the defence secretary, is expected to announce the deal to lease the Polar Circle during the Commons defence debate next week. The agreement ends months of uncertainty about the fate of the Endurance.

Lay choice of judges opposed

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LORD Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, has come out against a judicial appointments commission in which lay people would help in the selection of judges, as advocated within the legal profession.

The present system for appointing judges was not infallible, Lord Donaldson told Plymouth Law Society last night, but added: "You do not set up a committee with a large lay element to advise on the appointment of consultants."

A judicial appointments commission, which is Labour party policy, now has the support of the Law Society and the backing of her leaders, including the chairman of the bar. However senior judges, including the Lord Chanceller, oppose the idea.

Lord Donaldson also went on to attack a proposal by Tony Holland, past president of the Law Society, that lawyers without experience of advocacy could and should be appointed to the Court of Appeal.

built in 1956, Britain's only "warship" in the south Atlantic.

The defence ministry said: "Discussions have been in progress with Polar Circle's owners. An announcement will be made very shortly and discussions have reached an advanced stage."

The announcement of plans to withdraw the Endurance in 1981 helped to provoke General Galtieri's invasion of the Falklands by signalling apparent British loss of interest in the region.

At the time of the invasion, the ice patrol ship remained as Britain's only naval vessel in the area until the arrival of the task force. One of its two Wasp helicopters disabled the Argentine submarine Santa Fe and helped to recapture the island of South Georgia before returning in glory to Britain.

Endurance was brought second hand in 1967 and was named after the ship lost in Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition of 1914-6. His son, Lord Shackleton, yesterday described the decision to replace Endurance as a victory for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who had objected to the defence ministry's plans for removing it.

Mr Hurd is understood to have protested that withdrawing such a symbol of British interest in the region would again send the wrong signals to Argentina and the other signatories in the Antarctic treaty.

Officers from Endurance, including her captain, Bob Turner, are understood to be on board the Polar Circle in Bergen to see what changes are needed for it to carry out the Endurance's naval, surveying and research roles.

Leif Sorensen, managing director of the Norwegian owner, Rieber AS, said yesterday: "We are still negotiating some clauses but I think the lease will be ready to sign on Monday."

Carbuncles on faces of saintly friends

By MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

CHURCHES and churchyards are being ruined by unsympathetic extensions, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings says.

In the past, a parish wanting extra space for activities usually built a church hall elsewhere in the village. Today, says Philip Venning, the society's secretary, it demands facilities attached to the church. "There is a positive fear that if people have to venture out of doors for a cup of coffee, they will simply melt away," he said.

One reason is that an 1884 act on burial grounds lays down that any new building in a parish churchyard must be attached to the church. The society believes that most parish churches cannot be added to without causing archaeological, historic or aesthetic damage.

Parishes should carry out judicious and reversible rearrangements of the less used parts of the interior, Mr Venning says. "We are also concerned that some parishes overstretch themselves in building ambitious extensions when they already have difficulty in raising funds to keep the church in repair."

One church in Hampshire "was heartily relieved when



Greenhouse effect: the extension to Christ Church, Virginia Water, described as "in painful contrast" to the weathered brick of the church

a clumsy 1960s extension caught fire from a missile thrown from the local pub. It had become a nightmare to maintain," he said.

English Heritage is also concerned. Neil Burnin, one of its inspectors, said: "A pattern has developed whereby churches come in us

over a period of years for grant aid on structural repairs. When they are almost complete, they suddenly decide to sell the church hall, and apply for consent to add on to the church which we have helped to repair so carefully."

The SPAB insists that, if an extension is to be built, "it must be modest in size and

scale, subservient to the church, and built of sympathetic materials which do honour to the original". The standard of materials, details and finishes should be higher and more expensive on an extension than on a hall built away from the church.

"Monstrosities" and "excrencences" singled out by

the society include a two-storey extension to St Mary's, Watford, Hertfordshire, "a gross intrusion into a beautiful churchyard"; Christ Church, Virginia Water, Surrey, "a shiny glass box in painful contrast to the weathered brick of the church"; and St Mary's, Great Bentley, Essex, "a

clerkhouse-style extension to a fine stone church".

The society was founded in 1877 by William Morris, who was outraged at the damage being done to ancient parish churches and cathedrals by over-zealous restoration.

Enthusiasm, Review p18

Social workers feared violence from Orkney families

By KERRY GILL

PARENTS at the centre of the Orkney child abuse allegations were given no support by social workers after their children were seized from their homes on the island of South Ronaldsay last February, it was admitted yesterday. The senior social worker concerned said staff feared the parents might subject them to violence if they ventured on to the island.

It emerged that the fear of violence and a lack of staff led the social work department to

ignore guidelines laid down after the Cleveland report. Sue Millar, under cross-examination, told the judicial enquiry that even if she and her colleagues had offered to help the parents it was unlikely they would have been made welcome.

Mrs Millar, a key figure in the operating to take the nine children of four families, said the parents may have been so hostile they would have threatened the social work staff with physical violence.

After the allegations were made and the children seized

the community was left aghast. Within hours of the seizures friends and neighbours offered their support to the families. Hundreds of islanders gathered in the community hall in St Margaret's Hope, South Ronaldsay's biggest village, to discuss ways of getting the children returned. Shortly afterwards an action group was formed to fight for the parents' case.

Yesterday Mrs Millar, aged 36, claimed she was uneasy about the lack of support offered but pointed out that

Orkney had approached every social work department in Scotland for help. In spite of the plea only nine social workers offered their services.

"We were very much dependent on the goodwill of other authorities," said Mrs Millar, who was also unhappy about the amount of information her department had on the families before police and social workers took the children away. Mrs Millar added under cross-examination by Edward Targowski, QC, for the families: "I believe in such traumatic circumstances I

would have thought about parental support but I would not have been very sure about the reception we would have received from the parents in the circumstances."

She agreed with Mr

Targowski that the recommendations in the Cleveland report included involving parents, even if they were thought to be abusers and were hostile, in planning for their children's care. But Mrs Millar added: "I think if parents' hostility was going to include threats of physical violence we would have to draw the boundaries

for staff." Mrs Millar spent a week on the mainland explaining to social workers who volunteered their services what they were expected to do.

On her return two days before the raids, she found that little had been discovered about the families and that no planning for parental support had been done. She urged Paul Lee, social work director, to allocate a social worker in each family hut, in spite of pressure from her, this was not done.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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UN poised to adopt sweeping nuclear search rights in Iraq

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS UNITED Nations inspectors flew to Baghdad to investigate Iraq's efforts to build a hydrogen bomb, the security council prepared yesterday to impose the most intrusive controls ever on the country's future nuclear research.

Council members were expected to adopt a resolution late last night prohibiting Iraq from any nuclear activity — including electricity generation — except for work with isotopes for medical treatment and some geological, agricultural and environmental research. The resolution, based on reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UN Special Commission charged with disarming Iraq, would also seek to prevent Iraq from developing chemical, biological

or ballistic weapons into the indefinite future.

The sweeping controls include the right of UN inspectors to comb the country almost at will and "to request, receive, examine, retain, copy and remove any record, data and information". Iraq will be barred from importing a wide range of materials that can be used to build nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons and the Iraqi government will be required to adopt laws making it a criminal offence for citizens to develop the forbidden arms or to manufacture materials for them.

"This is how we stop Iraq in the long-term from picking up and carrying on," Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador to the UN, said. "One, we

have a very restrictive trade regime which we hope will prevent some of the things they managed to buy before being bought in future. The other is that we have this highly elaborate intelligence pool of continuing inspection efforts."

As the UN Security Council prepared to vote, a seventh team of nuclear inspectors flew to Iraq to resume their search for Baghdad's secret nuclear weapons programme. Dimitri Perricos, the team leader, said the 39 inspectors would be looking into Iraq's attempt to develop a hydrogen weapon, possibly one hundred times more powerful than a normal nuclear device. Documents seized by the last UN nuclear inspection team, which was detained for five days in a Baghdad car park, revealed that Iraq had begun production of Lithium-6, an isotope used only in hydrogen bombs.

"The fact that they had Lithium-6 just shows that they had been anticipating they are going to be having a prolonged programme, that they are going into the next step which is boosting of a weapon or going on the thermonuclear weapon," Mr Perricos said.

The official Iraq News Agency quoted a deputy chairman of Iraq's Atomic Energy Organisation as saying that UN officials were "grossly exaggerating" the country's nuclear potential. The official, who was not named, insisted there was "a systematic campaign of exaggeration and intimidation targeting Iraq's scientific research".

Mr Perricos, a Greek, said his team would begin its inspections today in three different zones in Iraq. "We will be looking at three areas — nuclear material, enrichment processing and weaponisation," he said. The US Defense Department said on Thursday that two nuclear sites in Iraq survived Gulf war bombing — one at al-Atteek, 40 miles south of Baghdad, and one at Furat, closer to the Turkish frontier.

At the beginning of August, the Turks carried out similar retaliatory air strikes accompanied by action on the ground. Mr Yilmaz would not say yesterday whether land forces would be involved.

Commentators during the August raids cast doubt on their military effectiveness.

Waliyat Ibrahim, the senior doctor in the Kurdish hospital in the northern Iraqi city of Dijana, complained recently that previous air attacks had harmed Iraqi Kurdish civilians rather than the Kurdish Workers' party activists against whom they were intended. He said that Turkey was trying to warn the Kurdish leadership in Iraq not to support the party.

Ever since the Kurdish uprising across its border last March, Turkish foreign policy makers have been divided on whether to change their traditional line which sees any Kurdish autonomy abroad as an incitement to insurrection. A view gaining ground is that a client relationship with the Kurds of northern Iraq may be the best way of keeping the lid on those indigenous Kurds who take up arms against the Turkish state.

UN officials say Iraq did not declare several missile launcher pads and there was also confusion about whether or not all its Scud had been destroyed. The two new teams join a 50-strong "super-team" already working to destroy Iraq's chemical weapons at the Muthanna installation northeast of Baghdad.

Israeli troops killed

From RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

A PALESTINIAN driver seeking to avenge last year's Temple Mount shootings drove a stolen van into a group of Israeli soldiers yesterday, killing two and leaving 11 others injured.

The incident threatened to prompt fresh violence last night. It capped a week of provocative actions by both Arab and Israeli extremists opposed to this week's visit to the region by James Baker, the American Secretary of State. "It is one other terrible deed by terrorists," Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said after the incident. "We will react accordingly."

Witnesses said that the attack took place yesterday morning at the Tel Hashomer junction, on the main highway between Tel Aviv and Haifa, where soldiers from a nearby military base usually wait to hitch lifts in civilian vehicles. A stolen van with Israeli licence plates was reported to have gone through a red light and veered into the soldiers before crashing into a shelter and overturning.

The driver was seized by civilians and held until the police arrived. The police said later that he had confessed to the attack and had claimed it was in retaliation for the killing of 18 Palestinians by Israeli police on the Temple Mount on October 8 last year. The driver reportedly came from the village of Qibya in the occupied West Bank, which will mark the 38th anniversary on Monday of a revenge attack by Israeli paratroopers which left 66 civilians dead.

Yesterday's incident happened only hours after Mr Baker had predicted that there would be more attacks by both Israeli and Palestinian extremists attempting to sabotage his attempts at convening a Middle East peace conference later this month. Mr Baker is due to arrive in Cairo tomorrow on the first leg of his eighth visit to the region this year as part of his diplomatic initiative.

Until yesterday's attack attention was focused on right-wing members of Mr Shamir's coalition government who took part in the seizure of property by Jewish settlers in the Arab east Jerusalem district of Silwan, creating renewed tension in the city in the run-up to Mr Baker's arrival here on Wednesday.

Ankara strikes at Kurds

From ANDREW FINKEL
IN EYREBAKAR

TURKEY has flown bombing runs into Iraqi territory to avenge the death last Monday of 11 Turkish soldiers who were attacked by Kurdish separatists at a military frontier post near the town of Culzara. Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish prime minister, speaking to reporters covering the general election campaign, said that eight planes had attacked targets about four miles from the Turkish frontier.

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French musical epic tries its old magic on Parisians

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A DECADE and more after the musical *Les Misérables* first achieved modest success in Paris, the show that has now been seen by nearly 20 million people around the world is to open here again tonight.

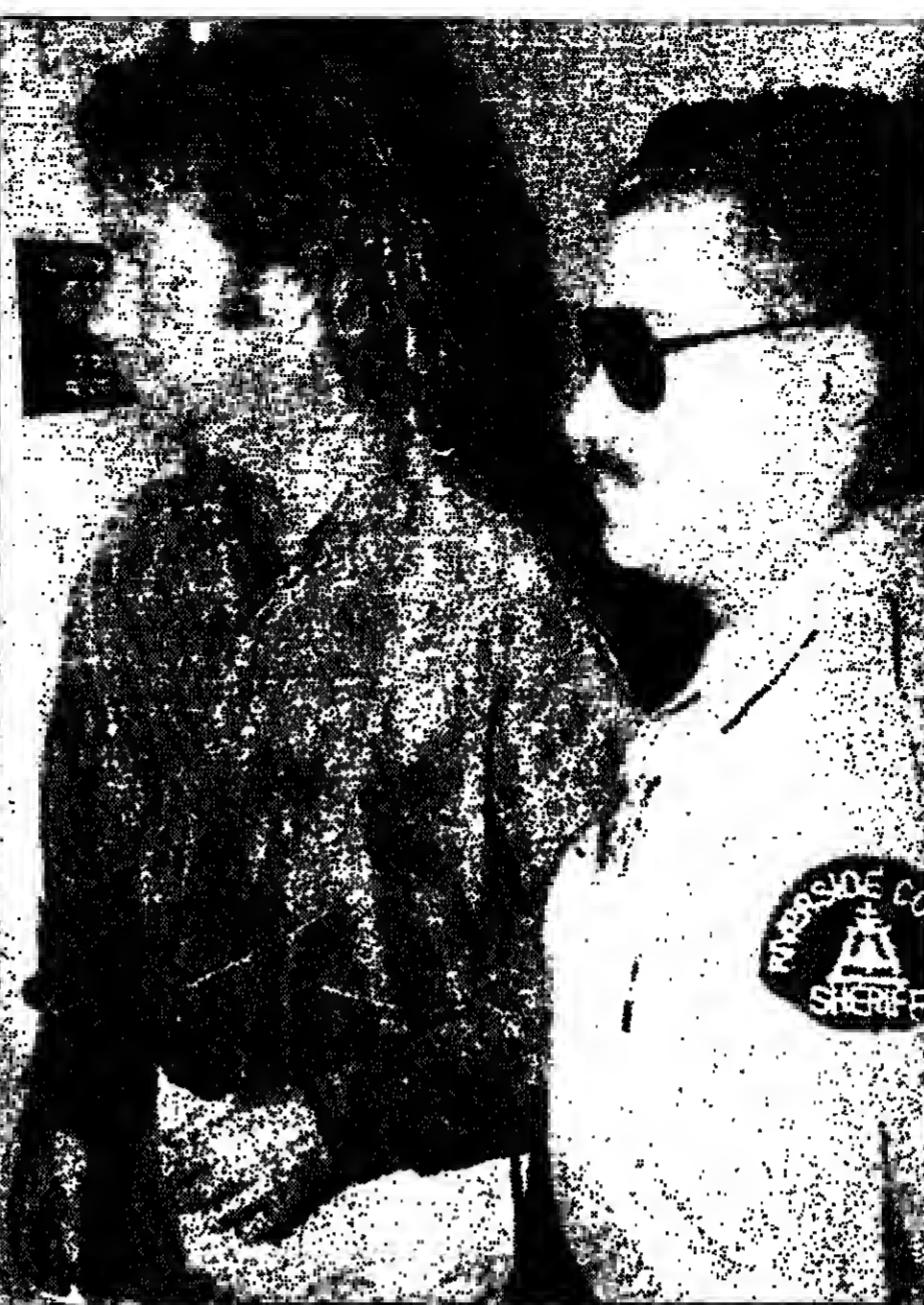
All the songs and dialogue

have been revised back into French, most of the cast is French and the advance publicity hails "a French epic that

sees everyone singing". It re

mains only for French audiences in the Théâtre Mogador to be swept away by a spectacle that so thrilled those at the Barbican and on Broadway. But will Jean Valjean, Cosette, the impulsive Inspector Javert and the rest of the cast be able to work the same magic with Victor Hugo's compatriots today, whose enthusiasm for grandly staged musicals does not always match that of *les anglo-saxons*?

While Victor Hugo may still be the nearest the French have



Honeymoon blues: Larry Fortensky, who married Elizabeth Taylor last weekend, appearing in the Corona municipal court, California, to face drink-drive charges. The court case was adjourned after a date had been set for another hearing

Little Havana prepares for a post-Castro era

Cuba's communist party congress is only a sideshow for thousands of exiles planning a return to the island. Martin Fletcher reports

WHEN Fidel Castro goes, Cesar García will ship his entire used car business, the Bonanza Auto Centre, from Miami to Cuba. Louis Galido will sell his popular Latin American cafeteria in Miami's Little Havana and re-open the cabaret he abandoned when he fled the real Havana in 1959. Carlos Alamillo, a packaged food magnate, has booked freighters to deliver dairy relief shipments to Cuba of packet soup and macaroni cheese.

To Miami's million Cuban exiles, this week's Cuban communist party congress in Santiago de Cuba is an irrelevant sideshow incapable of saving President Castro's skin. Abandoned by the Soviet Union, his country in appalling economic straits, the exiles insist that it is no longer a question of whether the ageing Cuban revolutionary will go but when.

Soon is their answer, and not just they but almost every authority, every business and every institution in south Florida have remarkably advanced contingency plans. When the moment for which these exiles have waited three decades finally arrives, there will be an upheaval such as this region has never seen.

Predicting a sudden, vast

and chaotic

exodus of Cubans

seeking to reach the United States, the US coastguard will effectively blockade the 90 miles of ocean between Cuba and the mainland, turning back not only an armada of everything floatable from Cuba, but also an anticipated fleet of private yachts from Florida going to pick up relatives.

Cars driving up from the Keys will be searched for Cubans who managed to reach those islands. Miami airport anticipates thousands of extra passengers in the first few days and another million a year there-

ago.

Francisco Hernández, its president believes that Cuba can be turned around in a fraction of the time it will take East European countries. He is confident that after so many years of socialism the Cuban people will embrace the foundation's brand of unashamed capitalism but admits one problem: "I hope Castro won't go before maybe March of next year because we won't be ready."

Informal surveys suggest that nearly half the 50,000-60,000 Cuban American businesses would want to invest in Cuba.

Luther King 'was guilty of plagiarism' over thesis

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A COMMITTEE of scholars has concluded that Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader and Nobel peace prize winner assassinated in 1968, was guilty of plagiarism in his doctoral thesis.

The panel at Boston university found that about one-fifth of King's 1955 dissertation on the work of two theologians contained direct quotations or altered passages from other works without proper attribution. "There is no question but that Dr King plagiarised in the dissertation by purposeful material from sources not explicitly credited in notes, or mistakenly credited, or credited generally and at some distance in the text from a close paraphrase or verbatim quotation," the scholars said.

The Boston panel said that most plagiarised passages

were in the body of the dissertation, leaving the conclusions intact. They decided to attach a letter listing their findings to the official copy of King's dissertation in the university library. But they ruled that the dissertation — *A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman* — did represent "an intelligent contribution to scholarship" and that King's doctorate should not be revoked.

The plagiarism charge delivers a new blow to King's reputation. Last year, a biography by the Rev Ralph Abernathy, another civil rights campaigner, alleged that King spent time with a woman the night before he died.

UN officials say Iraq did not declare several missile launcher pads and there was also confusion about whether or not all its Scud had been destroyed. The two new teams join a 50-strong "super-team" already working to destroy Iraq's chemical weapons at the Muthanna installation northeast of Baghdad.

Allegations of King's plagiarism first surfaced in the *Mandrake* column of *The Sunday Telegraph* in December 1989. But American publications, reluctant to tarnish the country's best-known black civil rights activist, were

slow to pick them up. King's papers are handled by the King Papers Project under a professor chosen by Coretta Scott King, his widow, who keeps a close eye on how her former husband is portrayed.

An investigation into the charges was launched last year only after *The Wall Street Journal* carried a front-page exposé of the charges, made by

academics working on papers at Stanford university.

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Call for a common foreign policy endangers EC unity



Genscher: does not share French views on America

A CALL by France, Germany and Spain yesterday for a common foreign and defence policy for the European Community will divide further the community's governments at the end of a sour-tempered week which has reduced sharply chances of EC leaders signing a treaty at the Maastricht summit.

The joint statement by the three foreign ministers does not change the arguments with which France and Germany have advanced their vision of the EC as a diplomatic and military power which might one day act independently of America. But the communiqué uncompromisingly rejects the Nato-oriented stance taken a week ago by Britain and

As the key players work on the final negotiations before the Maastricht summit, George Brock reports from Brussels that the treaty is still at risk

I Italy. The emphasis on the use of majority voting for some decisions in joint foreign policy underlines the French and German hope that Britain, which is fiercely resisting the proposal, can be isolated in the last stage of negotiations over the EC's political union treaty. The EC's key players are thus entering the last lap of negotiations almost as far apart on foreign and defence policy as they were when the treaty talks began in January. Diplomats here have dis-

creetly changed the language they use about the run-up to the Maastricht summit, which may turn into one of the most divisive in EC history. Until this week, they would talk about plans to "sign" a treaty on monetary and political union in Maastricht. Talks of signatures is now rare. The most optimistic say that, at best, the EC's leaders will be able to settle outstanding disagreements for a treaty to be ready for signing early next year.

Pessimists who say the EC

is overarching itself have been in the ascendant. As the talks on monetary union have moved steadily towards an agreement, the treaty conference on political union is in an acrimonious mess. Dutch politicians and officials discuss openly the possibility that the talks cannot meet the Maastricht deadline. The small EC states suspect once again that France and Germany are trying to boss the community about. The French government is worried whether its long-standing partnership with Germany is strong enough to do any such thing.

Much mainstream opinion here this year has maintained that John Major and Douglas Hurd would come round to some, if not all, the federalist

schemes in the treaty texts under discussion. As Mr Hurd continues politely to insist that there is a raft of things in the treaty draft which he doesn't like, the assumption that Britain will swallow its reservations at the last moment is not held as widely as it was. Over the past week, Mr Hurd has been chairing the cabinet committee which is setting Britain's bottom line on the unresolved issues. Britain may agree to make concessions on extending the EC's competence, increasing the scope of majority voting outside foreign and defence policy and even perhaps allow the European parliament some new power. But the deep gulf between Britain, France and Ger-

many over foreign and defence policy are beginning to look irreconcilable.

In his speech to the Tory conference, Mr Hurd dismissed talk of majority voting in EC foreign policy as "wasted breath". This is the language of a minister

expecting a shuddering collision on this issue during the next month. On an eventual EC defence policy, Mr Hurd may well succeed in persuading a solid majority to back the idea of developing Europe's defence inside the familiar framework of the Atlantic alliance. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, may have signed yesterday's Paris communiqué which made no mention of Nato at all, but he has also been busy signing

Grudging gestures may help to shore up shaky Yugoslav ceasefire

Army reneges on pact but sieges are lifted

FROM DESSA TREVISEN IN BELGRADE AND ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

DEFYING the accord reached only 24 hours earlier in The Hague, Serbian leaders and the federal army last night refused to pull the army out of Croatia and said that it would stay there until there is a political solution in Yugoslavia.

The move not only appeared to slam the door in the face of the European Community's latest peace efforts, but it also increases the possibility of a new round of fighting. The state presidency, which now consists only of four members representing the Serbian bloc, said that the withdrawal of federal troops was "totally unacceptable" as this would leave the Serbian population exposed to "physical liquidation".

The disclaimer issued by Belgrade appears to indicate that hardline army generals refused to implement any commitment to withdraw even after it had been agreed by General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister. It is rumoured that he is no longer in control of the armed forces.

Heavy fighting continued

yesterday around Osijek and Karlovac. An EC convoy carrying food and medicine to the besieged town of Vukovar in eastern Croatia came under heavy mortar fire as it approached the town and was reportedly to be stranded outside. On the Adriatic coast, federal forces began evacuating the port of Zadar, lifting the naval blockade there but the port of Dubrovnik was still surrounded.

Meanwhile, Croat forces yesterday began lifting the four-week blockade of the Borongaj army barracks in Zagreb in a grudging gesture of compromise intended to hold in place the ceasefire. The 600 soldiers trapped inside the base were expected to be evacuated early today. The move is the result of a trade-off between the forces of the breakaway republic and the army. Federal forces were to withdraw with their ammunition and weapons but without tanks to Bihać in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But the spirit of the blockade's removal was far from generous. The Croat guards who moved the tank traps,



Scorched earth: a Croat national guard runs for his life from the burning village of Badjeljina, near Paukac, yesterday

Yeltsin says Russia will sign new treaty

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MOSCOW

THE prospects of preserving an economic community among former Soviet republics brightened yesterday after Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, gave his approval to a new treaty and other leaders signalled their intention to sign, possibly within days.

Nine republican leaders met President Gorbachev in the new state council and gave their qualified assent after the Soviet president and Grigori Yavlinsky, the architect of the draft treaty, warned them of the consequences if they did not. The treaty was completed ten days ago.

Georgia and Moldavia, which are asserting their declarations of independence, boycotted the Moscow meeting and Ayaz Mutalibov, Azerbaijan's leader, withheld his consent for the treaty. The Interfax news agency said the ten leaders also gave their blessing to Mr Gorbachev's

proposals, which will eliminate thousands of weapons from their territories.

Mr Gorbachev told the leaders that the council, created after the failed coup in August, had not yet fulfilled the trust placed in it and "the patience of people is wearing thin". The world financial community, which is waiting for a sign of economic stability, was watching closely.

Mr Yavlinsky said none of the republics had the resources to go it alone, as several have indicated they might. "The monetary system will disintegrate, production will dwindle and unemployment will begin."

Mr Yeltsin said Russia was ready to sign by October 15, the original deadline, but he objected strongly to terms creating a supranational bank. He called for negotiations to create a system of co-ordination among republican banks, but not a central bank.

You are witnessing the last days of communist party hegemony," says Phillip Dimitrov, chairman of the United Democratic Forces in his cramped Sofia headquarters.

He is absolutely sure of victory, but the future government, it seems certain, will be an unstable shifting coalition.

Now the union will be lucky to attract 23 per cent of the vote. A breakaway opposition group of social democrats, the Centre Party, could take 10 per cent. The new government will have to lean heavily on the United Agrarian Party, which should bring in about 12 per cent, and the party of the Turkish minority, the Movement for Rights and Freedom.

All the key players say they

will not join forces with the socialists. Even Alexander Litov, the Socialist party chief, nicknamed "Soap" for his slipperiness, says he is

ready for a period of constructive opposition.

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victory, but the future government, it seems certain, will be an unstable shifting coalition.

Leader of Omon forces arrested

From ROGER BOYES
IN SOFIA

MOSCOW — The former deputy head of the Soviet interior ministry, riot police based in Riga, has been arrested by officials in Siberia, acting on a request from the Latvian authorities, the Russian RIA news agency said yesterday.

It said officials at Surgut in western Siberia had arrested Commander Aleksandr Parfenov. The ministry police, known as the Black Berets, were sent to Surgut after the failure of the attempted putsch against President Gorbachev in August.

Commander Parfenov is accused of having tried to "overthrow the constitutional authorities in Latvia" in January when Black Beret forces attacked the Latvian interior ministry in Riga, killing five people. Latvia has been independent from the Soviet Union for six weeks. (AFP)

Moscow snub

BISHKEK — Askar Akayev, the only candidate in Kirghizia's first presidential elections, due today, says he will steer his Central Asian republic away from Moscow and his conservative neighbours. Mr Akayev said he would not sign an economic treaty with other Soviet republics. (Reuters)

Phone power

GENEVA — Vyacheslav Gurkin, Soviet deputy minister for telecommunications, said that the Kremlin coup might have succeeded if telephone lines had been cut. "One of the main reasons the coup failed was that its organisers did not pay enough attention to telecommunications," he said. (Reuters)

Spy chief goes

OSLO — Svein Urdal, Norway's chief of intelligence, has resigned after he was criticised for allowing Israeli Mossad agents to question Palestinian asylum seekers. The Palestinians were not told that they were being examined by both Israeli and Norwegian intelligence. (Reuters)

Holy jaw stolen

PADUA — Three masked men have stolen one of the Roman Catholic church's most precious relics, the jaw of St Anthony of Padua set in a cup of gold and precious stones. They held pilgrims in the Basilica of St Anthony at gunpoint and then ran off with the relic in a bag. (Reuters)

Oldest profession flirts with market

From Our EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT IN WARSAW

THE Casanova club is no more. For a few months it seemed as if the late-night venue in Warsaw was on course to become the first legal brothel in Eastern Europe, but after angry complaints from the Catholic Church, Casanova was forced to retire.

The market revolution in Eastern Europe has brought prostitution into the open, triggering debate about the legalisation of brothels, and established the foundations of a thriving sex industry.

There are now sex shops even in small towns in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and newspaper kiosks groan under the weight of soft-pornography magazines, especially the products of Paul Raymond, the Soho entrepreneur. The communists tolerated prostitution — it did not fit easily into any ideological category — but the censors were usually reluctant to authorise pictures of naked women. Now even serious magazines have a difficult task keeping afloat without at least one pneumatic blonde or a

money has changed hands for sexual services. The closure of the Casanova was only possible because three girls had been persuaded to testify against the management.

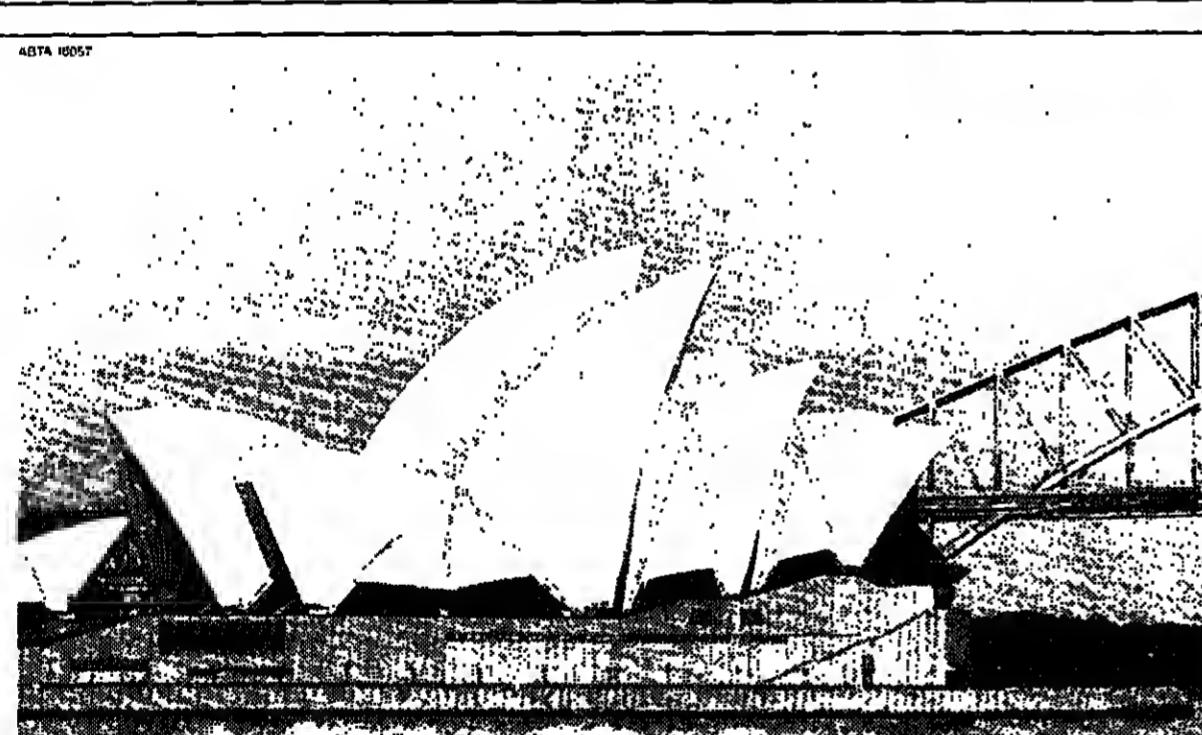
Since the market revolution led to thousands more prostitutes, and since AIDS makes prostitution a particularly dangerous health hazard, there is a broad front in favour of legalising brothels.

The legal loopholes are inherited from communist legalisation. Thus prostitutes are free to work and the only women registered with the police are those who have committed other crimes. Profiting from prostitution is illegal but that forces the prosecutor to prove that

money has changed hands for sexual services. The closure of the Casanova was only possible because three girls had been persuaded to testify against the management.

Since the market revolution led to thousands more prostitutes, and since AIDS makes prostitution a particularly dangerous health hazard, there is a broad front in favour of legalising brothels.

There is legal paralysis on sexual offences. Hungary, reluctant to pass repressive legislation, ended up with a hodgepodge draft that merely bans the sale of pornography near schools and insists that explicit magazines are sealed. But Czechoslovakia is now the closest to legalising brothels.



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Liberals pick former finance minister to lead Japan

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN's perky former finance minister Kiichi Miyazawa, aged 72, yesterday received the official support of the ruling Liberal Democratic party's largest Takeshita faction, making his election as party president and prime minister a virtual 'certainty' when party members cast their votes on October 27.

Followers of Japanese politics are nesting neither great hopes, nor fears in the anticipated Miyazawa administration. His reputation as a

cautious and conventional conservative may herald two years of stagnant politics, but his good relations with the bureaucracy and his wealth of ministerial experience point to a spell of relatively decisive leadership.

He will follow the shaky two-year administration of Toshiki Kaifu, a member of the party's smallest faction, who was chosen prime minister in the wake of the Recruit bribery scandal, when all Liberal party barons were tainted and the party needed a clean figurehead. Mr Miyazawa is a member of the seneschocracy that has kept the party in power since 1955, and is controller of the third largest faction. He is expected to exert a centripetal force on the party, but his debt to the Takeshita voting machine may yet open him up to bullying. He will owe his victory almost entirely to the Takeshita faction's failure to persuade Ichiro Ozawa, aged 49, its champion and heir apparent, to run.

While Mr Miyazawa appears to have won by default, he has spared nothing on this, his second and final bid to become prime minister. According to yesterday's *Mainichi* newspaper, his faction began fund-raising in August and has spent about £4.5 million on the race. One member confided to the newspaper that he and his colleagues had spent a month entertaining party MPs and handing them envelopes of cash to promote their cause.

Mr Miyazawa has paid similar homage to hundreds of party members. On one day this week, the spry grandfather reportedly made 157 visits to potential voters, bowing nose to knees all day in his efforts to solicit their support.

According to party tradition, questions of policy among leadership hopefuls are all but ignored in favour of factional power-play and offers of money and cabinet or party posts. This week's race has been no exception, but like his competitors, Mr Miyazawa has been playing to the crowds and mounting a hastily prepared political platform. He has pledged priority to the revival of an abandoned package of political reform bills, designed to clean up a political system that is prone to widespread corruption. However, few anticipate any substantial reform.

On defence issues, Mr Miyazawa has been a dove, but pressure from the Takeshita faction is expected to push through legislation that will allow Japanese soldiers to join a United Nations peacekeeping force and go overseas for the first time since the second world war. Internationally, Mr Miyazawa is likely to give priority to a good relationship with the American president. He has not been outspoken on Europe or Asia, and he will probably maintain his cautious stance on the Soviet aid problem.

Christmas bonus

Canberra — The Australian government hopes that a remote territory, once valuable only for its bird droppings, will become an Indian Ocean paradise for affluent tourists. It plans to auction 30 properties on phosphate-rich Christmas Island, 1,600 miles northwest of Perth, on November 13. (Reuter)

Deng will die unmourned

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

WHEN Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, dies, he will pass without ceremony, without a tombstone from the land which he has transformed, the central committee has decided.

The decree announced yesterday bans funerals and public expressions of grief or remembrance for all senior leaders. It does not specifically mention Mr Deng, aged 87, but it is clearly intended to avoid his death being used as an excuse for demonstrations.

In 1989, the death of Hu Yaobang became the rallying point for students bearing wreaths to march from the universities to camp out in Tiananmen Square. What started as a mourning turned into weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations which were only silenced by the guns of the army.

In the past, China has said farewell to its leaders with pomp and circumstance reminiscent of imperial days. Just as Qing dynasty emperors lie buried in ornate tombs outside Peking, so Chairman Mao lies enshrined in his own mausoleum on Tiananmen

Square. In future, Chinese leaders will be cremated and the ashes placed in local cemeteries.

The central committee gave no reason for its decision. It is believed, however, that, given the senior leaders' advanced years, comprehensive arrangements are being made for their deaths. The leadership's priority is the maintenance of order and diplomats believe the first sign of Mr Deng's death may be a heavy security presence on the streets.

While his death is considered the most potentially explosive event, Mr Deng is surrounded by other revolutionary veterans in their eighties whose deaths could give rise to strong emotions and rock the political boat.

Mr Deng, who holds no official position but is believed to retain power behind the scenes, has not been seen since February.

His critic and rival, Chen Yun, aged 86, is confined to a wheelchair and seen even less frequently. The authorities rarely disclose information about the health of these men except to say that they are still alive and well.



Head start: The Queen receiving a hat during a tour of the stalls at Harare's bustling Mbare Musika market on the second day of her Zimbabwe visit

'Comrade Kwin' wins hearts in Harare market

From JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Queen acquired a new title yesterday on a visit to a bustling Harare market, which smelled strongly of fish and offered a variety of local delicacies from dried caterpillars to incense made from cowdung. She was dubbed 'Comrade Kwin' by Esau Chigumira, a beaming vendor who stood behind a mountain of bright green rape leaves and exchanged a few words with the Queen on her second day in Zimbabwe.

The term has lost its communist connotation, in fashion when it first came into use at independence in 1980, and is now an expression of friendship. 'She smiles so nice, you can see she has a good heart,' said the stall-holder. Harare city council officials earlier removed piles of fly-encrusted dried bream from the stalls for fear of causing offence, but the British High Commission promptly ordered that they be put back.

A week ago the council prepared for the Queen's tour by demolishing the homes of 500 squatters, scarcely 400 yards from the Mbare Musika, Harare's busiest market. The move annoyed the High Commission. 'I think there's been enough sanitising on this visit,' said one diplomat.

The Queen, in a dress of apricot silk cloque and matching hat, kept her distance as she walked down the narrow aisles, but the Duke of Edinburgh adopted a more 'hands on' approach. He had a narrow escape at the traditional healer's stalls, a clutter of bits of elephant hide, porcupine quills, kudu horns, roots and bottles of dark liquid.

The bottles of pale powder he asked the *nganga* about contained *whukwa-whukwa*, made of crushed cantharidine beetles. It is known as Spanish fly.

'I told him it gives power,' the healer said after the Duke had left.

After a lunch with President Mugabe, the royal couple were treated to an afternoon of straw bashing. Gilbert and Sullivan and a tree planting school, named after the previous Prince of Wales who visited the school in 1925.

Mandela home is fired on

From RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO short bursts of automatic rifle fire were aimed at the home of Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, in Soweto outside Johannesburg, it was claimed yesterday.

It is the first time since his release from prison 20 months ago that an attack against the ANC leader has been made known. Although doubtless there have been many other threats, they have never been publicised by the ANC. Mr Mandela is always escorted by bodyguards wherever he goes and security experts move into any venue where he is to speak several hours before his appearance.

The ANC said yesterday that Mr Mandela, his grandchildren and members of his staff were at home in his mansion at ten o'clock on Thursday night when the shots were fired. An aide said tracer bullets were used but none apparently struck the house and nobody was hurt. A police rapid response unit arrived five minutes later.

Saturday Review, page 10

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Clifford Longley

Anglican parishioners must pay up or shut up

The Church Commissioners for England used to enjoy a quiet life. Every year they published their handsome accounts. Every year their executives fielded gentle questions at synods and press conferences. They were plainly a good thing, doing a grand job. Leave well alone, the Church of England said to itself. And if churchmen ever asked if the church could manage without "the Commissioners' millions" — now actually £2.5 million — they had only to see the books before shuddering and turning away.

For two immediate and one more remote reason, those happy days are over. The first is that the Bishop of Oxford has broken ranks by taking the Commissioners to court over the ethics of their investment policy. Judgment is awaited. The second is that, despite an investment policy favouring maximisation of returns regardless of the finer points of ethics, the Commissioners are severely strapped for cash. Grants towards clergy pay have been not just frozen but cut by £4 million, and the diocese of Chelmsford is talking of axing 20 vicars.

The third reason, still some way off, is the prospect of the end of the Church of England's special legal status as the nation's established religion. What happens to the Commissioners' billions in that event is far from clear, though crucial, and what the church really fears is not disestablishment but disendowment.

Without the Commissioners' annual investment income of £165 million, or equivalent funding, the Church of England would shrivel to an ecclesiastical bush. Weekly collections from congregations average a derisory £2 a head, much less than half what is needed for the church to be self-supporting. So the church is highly vulnerable to disestablishment and disendowment, which is why the Commissioners think it so important to maximise investment returns.

Throughout the 1980s, the Commissioners' income rose faster than inflation, and that income has consistently protected the church from market forces of a more mundane kind. That protection is now weakening. For £2 per head per week does not buy much religion. It certainly does not buy a national church with 10,000 full-time paid clergy, almost all with families. Nor does it signify much commitment from ordinary members.

Chelmsford diocese is about to put this commitment to the test. It used to be said that Anglicans were only ungenerous because they believed the church was rich. If church members now find parishes closing or denuded of clergy, will they see the light and make good the shortfall? Church leaders do not think so, in which case there is no hope of raising more from the pews to compensate the Commissioners for the penalties of rejecting high-investment returns on ethical grounds.

The Commissioners say that as public trustees they have a legal duty always to seek the best dividends they can. The Bishop of Oxford says they should be free to decline higher dividends from sources of which the church does not approve, even if this cuts their total income. Theologically, he has a good argument, but that may be little help in interpreting the law.

The case will clear up one significant uncertainty. Do the Church Commissioners belong to the church, or are they part of the state? If they belong to the church, they should be bound by whatever ethical distinctions the church likes to make between good and bad sources of income. If the state, then the only distinctions they need to observe are those insisted on by Parliament.

One day — and few churchmen now deny it — church and state will be pulled apart. If the Commissioners are part of the Church of England, they and their billions will go with the church; but if their assets belong to the state and they are just one more public corporation, their largesse is a "government subsidy" for one particular religion which could not possibly be justified after disestablishment.

In the long run, it would have been cheaper and safer for the Commissioners to have conceded the Bishop of Oxford his point, and then waited to see if anybody sued from the other direction. The more the Commissioners look as if they are within the precincts of the Church of England, rather than an independent state body governed only by secular law, the safer their millions will be from confiscation by disendowment.

With the Cold War over, Nigel West calls for a museum of espionage and suggests some exhibits

Britain's secret history

graphic triumphs took place, have been demolished, with scant regard for the crucial role the site played. Similarly, the "black radio" station at Woburn has been allowed to fall into disrepair and the "Bombe" annexes at Grayburst in Northamptonshire and Eastcote in Middlesex, where the daily settings of the Enigma cipher machine were deduced, are threatened with destruction. Even the famous duplicate cabinet war room, deep underneath Dollis Hill, which Churchill repaired to at the height of the Blitz lies derelict under several inches of floodwater.

Sadly, despite the wealth of material available for show, there is little suitable accommodation in this country, and neither allows outsiders access to its premises. The SIS has no means to display pieces from its archive, and MI5 has only a scruffy display cabinet in its Mayfair training section.

Britain's attitude to the achievements of the intelligence community is characterised by ignorance and neglect. Many of the famous huts in the grounds of Bletchley Park, where some of the great wartime crypto-

Royal Signals Museum near Trowbridge in Wiltshire, which has a fine collection of equipment, is obliged to restrict visits by the public.

The famous Black Museum at New Scotland Yard contains some fascinating curiosities from the world of espionage, including some ingenious Soviet spy equipment, but unfortunately there is hardly room for both visitors and exhibits.

Unlike the National Security Agency near Baltimore, which is also developing a collection of vintage computers and reconstructed Japanese cipher machines, its British counterpart at Cheltenham is so secretive that it will not share material dating from 1941 with the NSA's historians.

The absurdity of the secrecy maintained by GCHQ was eloquently demonstrated when a loan was

made of an old Wehrmacht Enigma machine to the Science Museum in South Kensington. Strict conditions were imposed on the way the machine could be displayed, and the staff are still not allowed to open the lid to reveal the mechanism to the public, even though there are several authentic Enigma machines in private hands in America, and probably at least one in this country.

Most were looted at the end of the war and have been sold in recent years following the disclosure of the "Ultra" secret.

The haphazard way in which the British authorities deal with such items is demonstrated by the appearance in the Imperial War Museum of a German suitcase wireless transmitter. When it was first put on display there was no indication of its origin, the use to which it had

been put, or the circumstances of its capture. It had been recovered from a German double-agent based in Iceland, one of a pair run by SIS with the codenames "Cobweb" and "Spider". The case officer responsible for supervising both spies was Harold Blyth, a counter-intelligence expert whose wartime career extended into the peace. His widow found the radio stored under his bed after his death. She contacted her late husband's superiors at SIS headquarters. When it found its way to the Imperial War Museum, the documentation said it had been contributed by Guy Bratt, himself a senior SIS officer.

Under the terms of the Official Secrets Act he was prohibited from disclosing any information regarding its origins.

The Special Forces Club in Knightsbridge, the members of which are mostly survivors from the Special Operations Executive (SOE), is often approached by those who have stumbled across wartime memorabilia. Each item is considered by the club's historical committee, a panel of experts including a representative of the

The author, Rupert Allason, is Conservative MP for Torbay.

The lure of the Snark

Julia Briggs hunts down a strange beast now on the loose in London

For over a century Lewis Carroll's comic and melancholic ballad *The Hunting of the Snark* has entranced children and adults alike. Now it is about to hit the stage as a musical. Like T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, Carroll's poem combines inspired nonsense, an eccentric cast of characters, tripping rhythms ("They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care") and high spirits with darker undertones. Its theme is doomed quest and its mood one of metaphysical dread.

"For the Snark was a Boojum, you see." This, the poem's last line, was also its starting point. It came to Carroll quite suddenly as he was walking across a hillside near Guildford on a June day in 1874: "I knew not what it meant, then; I know not what it means, now."

The Snark is a poem of male courage and camaraderie, the tale of a band of brothers. The Bellman and his crew, (who are mainly named for their occupations and all begin with "B") undergo a series of trials. Yet like the *Alice* books, the poem is dedicated to a little girl of golden memory, a child whose name — Gertrude Chataway — is woven into an acrostic poem of dedication.

Carroll met the eight-year-old Gertrude on the beach at Sandown, on the Isle of Wight, on adding "Are you going to

during the summer of 1875 and they at once struck up a friendship. He was amused at her unconventional dress ("A bare-legged girl in a sailor's jersey") while she was amused at the way he snuffed the sea air in deeply, and told her wonderful stories.

At this stage the poem was well advanced and Carroll was waiting for the artist, Henry Holiday, to complete his set of illustrations for it. Carroll had met Holiday early in the previous year and as they became friends, Holiday drew some nude studies of children which Carroll, a passionate amateur photographer, intended to "try to reproduce in photographs".

In the following summer of 1876, a few months after *The Snark's* publication, Carroll had discovered that the Chataways were not returning to Sandown that year, so he wrote to Mrs Chataway inviting her to bring Gertrude to be photographed in Oxford (where, under his real name, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, he taught mathematics at Christ Church).

A postscript enquires: "What is the minimum amount of dress in which you are willing to have her taken? I should see no objection . . . to photographing her in Eve's original dress." A follow-up letter, written in October, explains that he has photographed Lily Gray with nothing on, adding "Are you going to

allow Gertrude . . . to be done in the same way?" But apparently Mrs Chataway had reservations, since in the portraits Gertrude wore bathing-drawers or a night-dress. The visit to Oxford was followed by a coy letter to Gertrude herself in which Carroll tells her that his doctor has diagnosed him as suffering from too much kissing and has warned him,

"You may not give her any more until your lips are quite rested again."

While such behaviour arouses unease today, for Gertrude Chataway, as for many other little girls whom "picked up" (in his own phrase), Carroll figures not as a heavy-breathing monster but as a favourite uncle whose friendship gave untroubled pleasure and delight:

they remembered him with ardent affection and admiration. To Carroll, the pleasure of their company probably seemed more delicate, ethereal and pure than any relationship with a mature woman could be.

The hero of the *Snark* is the Baker who (like Alice in the wood) has forgotten his own name ("He would answer to 'Hi!' or to any loud cry, / Such as 'Fry me!' or 'Fritter my wig!'); yet he is transformed from the hunter to the hunted. Eventually, the Bellman and his gallant crew lose the Banker to a Bandersnatch and the Baker to the Snark who is really a Boojum, and their quest peters out in silence and loss.

And so too for Carroll the golden summer afternoon of innocence could not last; as the 1870s drew to a close, he put away his cameras for ever, and left detailed instructions in his will as to how his nude photographs were to be erased. Alice Liddell, who had inspired the books named after her, was married, and there were to be no more pure nonsense books.

Carroll's last book, *Sylvie and Bruno*, blends wonderland comedy with a nostalgic and sentimental evocation of adult emotions, though even these are suffused with longing for the fairy child-bride Sylvie, lost for ever in the wood of dreams. Perhaps Carroll's own Snark had finally turned out to be a Boojum.

The author is a fellow of Herford College, Oxford. The musical opens at the Prince Edward Theatre on October 24.



The Bellman, the Banker, the Butcher and the Beaver, from *The Hunting of the Snark*, drawn by Henry Holiday, 1876

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Henry Fielding, inventor of the modern novel, had the kind of self-assurance with all sorts and conditions of men that is traditionally supposed to sit upon an Etonian. He once fell into company with the Earl of Denbigh, whose family name was Fielding, spelt that way, as English spelling does with proper names to "wrong-foot" outsiders. It turned out that they belonged to the same family. The Earl asked why they spelled their names differently. Fielding replied that he had no idea, "except maybe that my branch of the family was the first to know how to spell".

Such variant spellings do not make much difference with proper names, apart from snobbery and one-upmanship. It does not really matter if you pronounce the surname Featherstonehaugh the way it looks, rather than the way the family prefers to be pronounced, Fawnhaw. In the government, the Secretary of State for Health has one of these trick names that are not pronounced the way they look. It is a habitation name for the place in Northamptonshire that was recorded in Domesday Book as Waldegrave. It means the grove (Old English "grāf") belonging to Old. Old is a nearby place, so called from the Old English "w(e)ald", the forest. Hence "Waldegrave", old forest's grove. So far, so straightforward.

The family traces its descent from Richard Waldegrave of Smallbridge in Suffolk, who was speaker of the House of Com-

mons in the 14th century, when being speaker was an even dodgier job than it is today. You could lose your head, as well as your temper. Over the centuries, the pronunciation of the name has shifted away from its spelling. It is now naff and ill-informed to pronounce it as a trisyllable. It should be pronounced as only two syllables, with the faintest hint of the vanishing dental *d* between them. Fielding (or Fielding) would no doubt have something to say about this.

Idiosyncrasy is a merit in proper names. It helps to distinguish Smythe from Smith and De'Ath from Death. But beyond the special case of names, little differences in spelling and pronunciation can make a big difference to the sense. The mishearing of homophones or bonyonyms or near-homophones can create merry havoc in a piece of copy dictated by telephone. Sight always comes out at the other end as site, whenever I am dictating, and I am still giggling ruefully at the epithet that emerged as hair-brained, conjuring up a surreal image worthy of Scarfe.

More English is being generated than ever before since the Tower of Babel. I sometimes think that there must be more disc-jockeys and chat-show hosts blabbering on the gross superficiality of radio and television stations than there are people listening to them. Quite a lot of their spelling is now checked by machine, or by people who

don't spell well themselves. This is good for an open society, but not for sense.

In the New Delhi telephone directory an advertisement makes the alarming claim: "We are the world's largest manufacturer of flattened wenches." So much difference can that little *r*, which some of us find hard to pronounce, make to your sense.

With the faintest hint of the vanishing dental *d* between them. Fielding (or Fielding) would no doubt have something to say about this.

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Bomber's beastly war

ONE interested party has been notably silent in the debate about the merits of the decision to erect a statue to honour Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris: the sculptor, Faith Winter, the creator of the £100,000 nine-foot bronze statue, which will be unveiled next March alongside one of Lord Dowding, wartime commander of Fighter Command, has deliberately kept her counsel.

But Winter has an intimate knowledge of the arguments she also sculpted the statue of Lord Dowding. "I have decided to speak out. I do not believe that the Harris statue should be considered in isolation."

Winter formed a special relationship with Harris's son, Sir Anthony Harris, and his daughters Rosemary and Jacqueline during the commission. "His family recalled a wonderful father with a great sense of humour and a sense of fun," she says.

At a viewing of the statue before it went off to be cast in bronze, Sir Anthony commented in public for the first time: "He was a reserved man with an enormous sense of humour, but was terribly worried about the war. On several occasions I remember him telling me: 'It was a beastly business.'

In his book *Bomber Offensive*, Sir Arthur wrote of the carpet-bombing which destroyed Dresden and other German cities:





JOHN MAJOR

Last November, the Tory kingmakers offered the nation a pig in a poke to succeed the overthrown Margaret Thatcher. In his first conference speech as leader at Blackpool yesterday, John Major gave a clearer idea of who he is, but not of where he is going. Public speeches may not matter as much in the age of television as the set-piece interview or even the soundbite. But British politics is still the politics of the club — witness the manner of Mr Major's election — not of presidentialism. Set piece speeches, whether at party conferences or in Parliament, are still crucial to club ascendancy.

Yesterday Mr Major established his ascendancy emphatically. If his demeanour and voice remain unassuming, soft-spoken, in a word grey, he can at least crack jokes about it. Like many of his cabinet, he does not take easily to the autocues and magnifying screens which disjoint delivery and distort eye contact with an audience (they should be discontinued). But in his words, Mr Major showed a remarkably confident mastery of his job and his party.

He used his own past deficit to substantiate an otherwise cliché-haunted advocacy of equal opportunity. Here was an authentic product of the post-war meritocracy, in the mould of Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher. In terms of class background, the Tory cabinet is not appreciably different from Labour's shadow one. Mr Major's Conservative party may be the party of success, even of wealth, but it cannot be called the party of privilege.

The account of the past year's custodianship was sketchy. The prime minister is entitled to take pride in his conduct of the Gulf war, in his handling of Europe, in the apparent conquest of inflation. Equally understandable was that he should have paid little attention to the price the British economy has paid to achieve low inflation, to the depth of the recession and to the lingering sores of Northern Ireland and urban decay. That he should oppose

"progressive" methods of education, castigate property crime, deplore left-wing councillors and support the National Health Service is hardly surprising. But those who search for novelty or specificity in John Major's presentation will look in vain. He paid fulsome tribute to colleagues who have spent the past year consolidating the changes of the 1980s, but he was disappointingly platitudinous in doing so.

Indeed, and this is the continuing doubt about Mr Major, he seemed eerily policy-averse. Those used to the red meat of a Thatcher oration must clearly get used to lighter fare. In his reference to the NHS, his audience applauded his eloquent nailing of Labour's mendacity and then awaited his defence of the upheaval that is causing his party such anguish. None came. Mr Major is a consolidator, not a radical. He feels the Thatcher years were those of sufficient change. For the future there is just the neo-liberalism of the Citizen's Charter.

Vision in politics can be a dangerous thing. Mrs Thatcher's vision was specific and often exciting, but it could scare her party out of its wits — and over poll tax out of its senses. The case for a converse approach, especially in advance of an election campaign, is strong. But Mr Major made much of the vacuity of Labour policy under Neil Kinnock. He chided Labour for no longer knowing where it is going.

Yesterday the nation received some banalities — "the power to choose, the freedom to own" — and some reassurance: it has a leader of character and charm. But of that leader's intentions for the welfare state, for European union, for tax reform, for local government, for the constitution and the law, indeed for much of the Thatcher legacy, the nation as yet knows little. A year ago, it was offered a leader for whom it had not voted and on whom it must wait at least another half year to vote. It appears to like the pig, but the pig is still in the poke.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Live on some American channels, leading the news on all networks, an electrifying battle is joined in the US Senate this weekend between two articulate self-made lawyers, both from poor backgrounds and both black. The outcome will decide the fate of President Bush's latest nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. But it is not only Judge Clarence Thomas who finds himself in the dock of public opinion.

Women across the country have fire. US Senate, only two of whose hundred members are female, in their sights, accusing senators in thousands of letters and telegrams of rank insensitivity to sexual misconduct. The final Senate vote will only tangentially be about the composition of the Supreme Court or even about the "character" of Judge Thomas. The senators are under enormous pressure to demonstrate how seriously they take sexual harassment. The scene is set for an orgy of "politically correct" hypocrisy.

Professor Anita Hill claims that the judge insisted on discussing his sexual prowess and pornographic films with her when she was his employee a decade ago. These allegations, made confidentially, were leaked to a pro-abortion lobby opposed to the conservative judge's appointment. Hence, after a confused pause, the new hearings, an ordeal of cross-examination which would be painful even without the television cameras. The verdict, especially given the lapse of years, cannot be clear-cut.

Dr Hill has stopped short of accusing the judge of verbal sexual harassment in the workplace, which is a crime under American law. Her complaint is of conduct unbecoming one in high office. Judge Thomas, deoying the charge, himself asked for this special hearing "to clear my name".

Seen by some as an eleventh-hour player in the political game of character-assassination which has increasingly dominated Senate confirmation hearings, Dr Hill is lauded by others as the standard-bearer for thousands of women in their struggle against

what the American media call "power-leering". That is something most women regard, with varying degrees of resentment, as a hazard of their sex. There are few subjects on which most men feel less comfortable. Verbal harassment is both commoner and far harder to define than physical harassment. In the backchat between sexes, there is no infallible line between what men tend to see as "all good fun" and what some — but not all — women find obnoxious or intimidating. When most women try to dress attractively for a male-dominated working world, when is a compliment intrusive? Bottom-pinchings is obviously insulting, but what of the pat on the shoulder?

The Americans have blazed this new and elusive trail for mutual respect in the workplace, as they have in many other areas of women's rights. Since verbal harassment became a criminal offence in 1986, legal practice has been that a victim need only demonstrate that an activity would seem like harassment to a "reasonable woman". There is nothing trivial about the allegations against Judge Thomas. Yet, given the timing of Dr Hill's complaint and the fact that she followed him to another agency after the incident, the affair has about it an aura of political contrivance.

The issue has nothing to do with the legal opinions on abortion, civil rights or anything else that Judge Thomas would be likely to hold if confirmed. Those he has kept well hidden. Mindful of the Senate's successful hounding of Judge Bork, he offered no hostages to fortune in the original hearings.

Equally, he did little to substantiate President Bush's claim that this little-known man was pre-eminently qualified for the job, resting his case on "character". In nominating him, Mr Bush exploited the hypersensitivity of America's racial politics to reinforce the conservative voice in the Supreme Court. How ironic that America's equally hypersensitive sexual politics should now have put his choice at risk.

IN COMMUNION

The spectacle of prayers and vigils for the hostages in Lebanon, focused on St Bride's in Fleet Street but echoed throughout the land, has been one of the more heartening aspects of a story that is otherwise so full of sorrow. But do these prayers achieve anything more than making those who pray feel better? The question is relevant to people of many religions and of none. By no means all agnostics, or even atheists, would regard it as meaningless for individuals to formulate their innermost hopes and desires in the time-honoured form of prayer.

In a letter to *The Times* earlier this week, John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, took issue with Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok. The rabbi had argued in an article that God's omniscience is such that He knows whether or not the hostages will be released; hence "there is no point in praying for the opposite to take place". Not so, the archbishop declared. Since the future does not yet exist, God's omniscience does not entail knowledge of the future. "History is not a film already made and waiting to be shown."

It would be wrong to take these or any other two theologians as representative of the Christian and Jewish attitudes to these matters. At least since St Augustine, Christians have entertained a wide variety of opinions about the implications of God's omniscience for humanity and hence also for prayer. Prayers for the dead have always played a large part in monastic religiosity, whether Catholic or Orthodox, but less so in Protestant thought. Prayers for the living,

though, are common to all Christians and, indeed, most other religions.

There is a comparable spectrum in Judaic thought. At one extreme is the heterodox but still influential figure of Spinoza, whose *Ethics* drew the extreme consequence of absolute determinism from his exalted conception of God, in which there is little place for prayer. At the other is Franz Rosenzweig, who revolutionised Jewish theology by drawing new meaning from traditional prayers and festivals.

For those who do not believe in God, the extent of his presence is irrelevant to the question of whether prayer has any meaning. To the agnostic, prayers for the hostages may still have an objective value. If public, they are an expression of solidarity and compassion; if private, they may amount to a scrutiny of the individual's own conscience. Prayer is sincerity or it is nothing. As Hamlet's uncle Claudius sighs: "Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

The secularised world has dispensed with

so much religious baggage that it can ill afford to lose the rich language of prayer. Even the most banal prayer imposes a mental discipline. It presents the supplicant with an opportunity to identify with others in desperate straits. The extraordinary outpouring of feeling for the imprisoned hostages has been a welcome manifestation of the continuing need for votive expression, even among those who never cross the threshold of church, synagogue or mosque.

On the right or wrong rail link?

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, Mr Malcolm Rifkind's rejection of the British Rail preferred route for the Kent high-speed rail link in favour of the Ouse Arun route (report, October 10) is deeply disappointing. Of the three options the Ouse Arun route would have impacted least on areas of national nature conservation importance, and was therefore favoured by the RSPB.

The Ouse Arun route will care through the Rainham Marshes site of special scientific interest, one of the last places on the fringe of London of national nature conservation interest.

The Rail Europe option would be even worse as it would cross the Medway estuary and north Kent marshes which are of international importance for their wild birds, and are identified for special protection under the EC Directive on Bird Conservation. We now need a clear commitment from the government on two counts — not to move the Ouse Arun route eastwards into these sensitive areas, and to minimise the impact on Rainham Marshes.

All this points to the urgent need for a full and impartial process of environmental assessment. This would enable the government to weigh up the competing interests likely to be affected by any new rail link and associated development in the east Thames corridor.

Despite this need the government has proposed to expedite the consent procedures for such development, which will reduce the opportunity for interested parties to put their views.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA YOUNG,
Chief Executive,
The Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds,
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.
October 10.

From the Chairman of Transport 2000

Sir, The decision by the secretary of state for transport to choose the eastern route for the new Channel tunnel rail link may well be the right one. But was it not indisputably wrong to encourage British Rail to make preparations for another route, involving them in spending

Local aggregation may or not be inevitable. But in this case it is justifiable.

Yours etc.,
MALCOLM BALEN,
23 Lyndhurst Way, SE15.
October 10.

From the Chairman of the Sports Council

Sir, Malcolm Hughes of Vernons Pools (October 11) suggests there is no basis for claims that a national lottery would generate significant additional income.

Independent research commissioned by the Sports Council and Arts Council (report, September 24) presents a very different picture. The representative sample of 2,000 adults across Great Britain identifies that much of the estimated £2 billion which could be raised would in fact be new money — only 5 per cent of those interviewed said they would change from the pools to the lottery.

The research shows that the greatest interest in a national lottery would be amongst social classes AB, who do not normally take part in football pools, and not from the lower income groups, as the managing director of Vernons believes.

The benefits that a national lottery could bring to sport and the arts are enormous. I am sure that the public are now ready to welcome its introduction.

Yours sincerely,
PETER YARRANTON, Chairman,
The Sports Council,
16 Upper Woburn Place, WC1.
October 11.

Rugby rainbow

From Christian, Lady Herketh

Sir, Until last Saturday one of the most elegant sights in sport was the England Rugby XV running onto the pitch in their pristine all-white strip. Not now.

Who, one might ask, is the tasteless vulgarism of an innovator who designed the team's present gear, i.e., red, white and blue colours (as this is a UK side), coloured stripes on one sleeve and a ludicrous black patch on their shorts?

It is to be fervently hoped that Scotland, Ireland and Wales will not go the same way.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN HESKEITH,
Pomfret Lodge, Worcester,
Northamptonshire.
October 9.

Nigerian sting

From Mr Ronald E. Buxton

Sir, You reported yesterday (Business) that Scotland Yard are investigating some 100 cases of companies being caught by Nigerian fraudsters over the past few months.

As a recipient of a letter from these people, which was amateurish if not ludicrous and produced only a giggle from ourselves, I can only suggest that instead of looking in Nigeria, Scotland Yard or maybe a psychiatrist should investigate anyone who thought he could obtain 35 per cent of \$25 million for nothing other than a few pieces of paper.

If this report is indicative of the management of British industry then heaven help us.

Yours,
RONALD E. BUXTON
(Managing Director),
Powder Products Ltd, Unit 29,
Trent Lane Industrial Estate,
Castle Donington, Derbyshire.
October 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Judicial function of European Court

From Mr Gavin Smith

Sir, One hesitates to take issue with a jurist of the distinction of Lord Mackenzie-Stuart. However, his assertion (October 3) that the function of the European Court of Justice is a purely judicial one cannot go unchallenged.

Yours faithfully,
THUGH MONTEFIORE,
Chairman, Transport 2000,
10 Melton Street, NW1.
October 10.

From Mrs Angela Babb

Sir,

Of course we in Peckham and Camberwell are happy about the choice of the Stratford route to King's Cross for the Channel tunnel rail link. An estimated 7,000 homes in Peckham alone would have been adversely affected by British Rail's chosen route.

The price that has been paid by

communities along British Rail's preferred route has already been too high. To disguise our relief that we can start rebuilding our lives would be hypocritical. But the Stratford route is an intelligent and forward-looking choice by the government, albeit one we wish had been made sooner.

Yours faithfully,

ANGELA BABB (Co-Chairman,
Peckham and Camberwell Action
on the Rail Link),
106 Talfourd Road, SE15.

October 10.

From Mr Malcolm Balen

Sir,

Your editorial (October 10)

states that the "local aggravation

inevitable" with projects like the

Channel tunnel rail link has spent

itself. How extraordinary then that — like thousands of residents in southeast London — I am still angry over what has happened in the last three years.

British Rail has torn the heart out of Peckham — buying up more than a hundred homes — some of them now boarded up and some of them

squatted.

Local aggregation may or not be

inevitable. But in this case it is

justifiable.

Yours faithfully,

MALCOLM BALEN,

23 Lyndhurst Way, SE15.

October 10.

Probably the most striking recent instance of judicial policy-making

is

the

debate for Maastricht

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, One can sympathise with the call from Lord Harris of High Cross and others (October 7) for a "grand debate" on Europe. However, the truth which all these gentlemen will sooner or later have to face is that

such a debate will not be allowed by the leaders and whips of the two major parties. They have no interest in one, since it would split both parties down the middle.

The government is particularly vulnerable, with Major, Lamont and Hurd all making concessions to the federalists. Their latest tactic apparently is to substitute a synonym for the word "federal" in the draft treaty, thereby placating their critics in the Conservative party.

I am now convinced that the only way to influence government policy is to threaten it with defeat at the next general election. This means that anti-federalist candidates will have to run against Conservative ones in seats (especially marginal) where federalism is likely to be the viewpoint of the prospective MP.

I therefore propose to chair a committee to establish an anti-federalist league, open to men and women of all parties and one, with the express object of running candidates against Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs who would vote for a Maastricht treaty, based on any draft yet presented. I appeal to all potential supporters to contact me at the address below.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN SKED,

Flat 3, Abbercrombie Court,

68 Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N5.

October 7.

Japanese festival

From Sir Peter Parker

Sir, Your leader of October 5, "Japan's mysteries", suggests that "Life in Japan is very different from the image given by consumer products that are perfectly tailored to a Western way of life. A more accurate portrayal is given by the current Japanese exhibition in Britain".

7.25 News and weather
 7.30 Ovide. Animated adventures of a duckbilled platypus (r) 7.40 Opposites Attract. Nature series for children. This week a barn owl hunts for food and a field mouse keeps a wary eye on a hovering kestrel (s) 7.50 The Amazing Adventures of a space age family (r) 8.15 Checkmate. Comedy with Paul and Barry Chuckle trying to mend telephones (s) 8.35 Dungeons and Dragons. Animated fantasy adventures for children (r)
 9.00 Going Live! presented by Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield. Among the studio guests are actor Robert Sean Leonard who starred in the film *Dead Poets Society*, and singer Cathy Dennis; in the United States, Jakki Brambles talks to *We Wet Wet*; and Philip Hobson has advice on teenage problems. Plus details of a competition to become the cover star of the magazine *Just 17* (s) 9.12 Weather
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider at St Andrews. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of next week's European championship matches involving Wales, Scotland and England; 12.45, 1.05, 3.05 Golf: semi-final action from the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews. The commentator team is Peter Alliss, Bruce Critchley, Alex Hay, Clive Clark and Mike Hughe; 1.05 News; 1.45, 2.05 Show Jumping: the Horse of the Year show from Wembley Arena with commentary by Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Racing from Ascot; 2.35 Motor Sport: the 13th and final round of the Esso British Touring Car championship from Silverstone. Murray Walker describes the action; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.35 Final Score 5.00 News and weather
 5.10 Health news and sport. Wales: Wales on Saturday 5.25-5.45 Tom and Jerry Triple Bill
 5.15 One to Win. Trivia quiz hosted by Andrew O'Connor in which three contestants strive to be the one to win a luxury holiday (s) (Ceefax)
 5.45 Only Fools and Horses. Another episode from an early series of John Sullivan's priceless saga of the wheeler-dealing Trotter family. Del persuades his friend Denzil to allow him to paint and decorate his flat in preference to an Irish professional, Brenden. But Denzil's wife, having experienced Del's business propositions before, is reluctant to let him into the flat. Starring David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Leonard Pearce (r) (Ceefax)
 6.15 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Games. Four more family couples – from York, the West Midlands, Bedford and Kent – compete for a chance to win the competition's grand prize (s) (Ceefax)
 7.15 Challenge America. The non-stop Miss Rice is challenged to organise a white wedding, including invitations, bridesmaids, dresses, reception and honeymoon, and renovate a 13th-century church in less than three days. (Ceefax)
 8.05 Birds of a Feather. Earthy comedy series starring Pauline Quirk and Linda Robson as the sisters whose husbands are serving prison sentences. The decision to go to a car boot sale brings back jealous memories for Tracey. With Lesley Joseph as their obtrusive neighbour Doreen. (Ceefax) (s)



High Fashion: Twenties style with Louise Lombard (8.35pm)

8.35 The House of Effort. Episode seven of the polished period drama set in London during the 1920s and following the fortunes of two sisters who try to make their way in the fashion business. Starring Stella Gonet and Louise Lombard. (Ceefax) (s)
 9.30 News with Marilyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Sport and weather
 9.50 Saturday Night Clive. Clive James casts his acerbic eye over the world's more obscure television offerings. His studio guest is comic actor and author Stephen Fry
 10.35 Horse of the Year Show. David Vine, from Wembley Arena, introduces the climax of the week's events, the Everest grand prix, followed by the cavalcade of competitors. The commentators are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley
 11.25 Film: Operation Undercover (1975) starring Michael Moriarty and Yaphet Kotto, with Richard Gere in his first film role as a hippy. Tough police drama about the corrupt internal investigation into the accidental killing of an undercover policeman by a rookie cop. Directed by Milton Katselas
 1.15am Weather

9.00 Film: Caravan (1948, b/w) starring Stewart Granger, Anne Crawford, Jean Kent and Dennis Price. Overcooked Goldfarb's melodrama about a penniless emigrant trying to win the daughter of the local sultan. Directed by Arthur Lubin (s) 10.55 Look, Stargazing. The story of Major Peter Wood's attempts to turn Herm island into a self-sufficient community (r) 11.15 Spirit of the Indies. The religious beliefs of the people who inhabit the far corners of Indonesia's widespread archipelago (r)
 12.15 Film: Storm Boy (1976) starring Greg Rowe and Peter Cummins. Children's adventure about a young boy, living with his father on a remote part of the Australian coast. Directed by Henning Safran, 1.45 Heirs and Graces. Lady Victoria Leathem visits Widcombe Hall, the home of the Marchioness and Major Sir Edward of Teviotstock (r) 2.45 Mehtabehari. Episode 63 of the 93-part Indian epic
 3.25 Film: The Lady From Shanghai (1947, b/w) starring Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth. Thriller with a convoluted plot about an Irish sailor who becomes unwittingly involved in murder when he accompanies a beautiful woman and her husband on a cruise. One critic said it needed subtiles. But director Welles comes up with some magic touches, including the celebrated shoot-out in the hall of mirrors. 4.30 Animation Now. Blackberry Shwayze Jam
 5.00 Film: City (1950) starring Randolph Scott, Robert Ryan and Zachary Scott. Stalwart Western adventure about a gun-slinging hero who tries to track down the bank robber who stole a pair of his prototype revolvers. Directed by Edwin L. Marin
 6.00 Japanese Language and People. The fifth of a ten-part series puts the spotlight on Japan's education system
 6.40 Late Again. Highlights from this week's editions of *The Late Show* (s)
 7.25 Have I Got News For You? Topical comedy news quiz (r)
 7.55 News with Mairi Stewart. Sport and weather
 8.10 Sounds of the 60s. The second selection from the BBC's rock and pop archive (s)
 8.40 The Second Russian Revolution.
 (c) CHOICE: The superb political history of the Soviet Union under Gorbachev is back for a third year, with the addition of new programmes dealing with the end of the cold war and including the failed August coup. The series' main focus is an interview with an aide who was with Gorbachev during the leader's house arrest. The series would have been impossible to make without the very changes it describes. Apart from Gorbachev himself, *The Second Russian Revolution* has contributions from almost all of the leading figures, and they speak with a frankness that would have been unthinkable ten years ago. It is a result of a vivid and illuminating narrative that not only make fascinating television but will be rich source material for future historians. Tonight's programme goes back to 1995 and gives a blow-by-blow account of the manoeuvres behind Gorbachev's emergence as leader (r) (Ceefax)



Bewitching: Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as Yelena (9.30pm)

9.30 Performance: Uncle Vanya.
 (c) CHOICE: With their intimate exchanges and subtle nuances which can easily get lost on stage, Chekhov's plays are almost made for television and it is strange they do not reach the small screen more often. Gregory Mosher's production of *Uncle Vanya* continually makes the point, instead of pulling back and giving us televised theatre, he gets the camera in close, picking up every word and gesture. It is a technique which also helps to bring out the Chekhovian melancholy and introspection and the little flashes of wry humour. The main male characters are effectively taken by David Warner in the title role, Ian Holm as Astrov and Ian Bannen as the professor, while the American actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio makes a good stab at the bewitching Yelena. The production uses a new adaptation by the playwright David Mamet which is fluent, sometimes colloquial but always faithful. (Ceefax)
 11.40 Film: Highlights of Today's semi-finals of the International team competition, the Dunhill Cup, from St Andrews. Ends at 12.25am

6.00 TV-am
 9.25 Monmouth. Young people's entertainment magazine. This morning's edition includes Michael J. Fox talking to Gaby Roslin about his new film *Doc Hollywood*; Dennis Minogue performing her latest single; and wildlife expert Chris Packham talking about his new series of *Go Wild* which begins next week

11.30 The Chart Show. The Vintage Video slot features the Specials performing "Ghost Town" (s)

12.30 Saint & Griselda. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves look forward to next week's European championship matches involving the home countries and review this week's Rumbelows cup second round, second leg results

1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather

1.10 Rugby World Cup. Frank Bough introduces five coverage of the game at Murrayfield between Scotland and Ireland (kick-off 1.30), with both teams boosted by big wins on Wednesday. The commentator is John Taylor who is joined by Gordon Brown, Nigel Carr and Fran Cotton. Followed by the game (kick-off 3.15) at Cardiff Arms Park between Wales, who had a morale-boosting win against Argentina on Wednesday, and Australia, who dealt the Welsh a crushing 63-8 defeat during the summer. The commentator is Bob Symonds with expert comment from Gerald Davies and Bill Culbert

4.45 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 4.55 LWT News and weather

5.10 Sharp Pet Shop is joined by Dennis Minogue, Gary Glitter and England rugby captain Will Carling. Plus previews of *Motorcar '91* and the film *Doc Hollywood*

5.20 Bewatch. A feature-length episode to introduce a new series of sun-kissed adventures of the Los Angeles county lifeguards, starring David Hasselhoff. In this story a mystery object crushes a scuba diver and then sinks a fishing vessel when it is encrusted by its nets. (Oracle)

6.55 Blind Date. Cilla Black introduces another selection of love-lorn hopefuls (Ceefax)

7.55 Stay Lucky. The first of a new series of Yorkshire Television's sprightly comedy drama by Geoff McQueen, creator of *The Bill*. Dennis Waterman and Jan Francis star as the desperate couple with an unpredictable relationship. (Oracle) (s)

8.55 News with Nicholas Owen. Sport and weather



A fair cop: Mel Smith right, collars Griff Rhys Jones (9.15pm)

9.15 Film: Wif (1989).

(c) CHOICE: Tom Sharpe's comic novels have had a mixed fate in their transfer to the screen, with the BBC's *Blot on the Landscape* notably less successful than Channel 4's *Porterhouse Blue*. Made by London Weekend Television, and first shown in the cinema, *Wif* comes somewhere between the two. The casting of Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones gives a fair indication of what to expect. Jones plays the title character, a polytechnic lecturer who fantasises about murdering his nagging wife (Alison Steadman). Smith is the bumbling police inspector who becomes convinced that Wif has done the deed. The humour is broad and not always subtle, with writers Andrew Marshall (creator of the excellent BBC sitcom *Two Point Four Children*) and David Remick tending p to the easy targets. Diane Quick and an inflatable add to the fun and the director Michael Tuchner maintains a frantic pace. (Oracle) (s)

11.05 Rugby World Cup. David Bobb introduces highlights of this evening's game in Brive, France, between Fiji and Romania; and this afternoon's games between Scotland and Ireland and Wales v Australia

12.05am Tour of Duty. American drama series about a group of raw recruits on active service in Vietnam

1.05 Wrestling from the United States

2.00 New Music. Celebrity interviews and videos presented by Denise Donelan and Jane Lyndon

3.05 Coach. American comedy series starring Craig T. Nelson as a football coach

3.35 Baseball 1991 from the United States

4.30 The Hit Man and Her. Disco music, news and fashions introduced by Michaela Strachan and Pete Waterman (s)

5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00am

6.00 Comic Book. Cartoons for children 7.00 Once Upon a Time... Space. Exploring outer space through the eyes of animated characters 7.30 High 5. Unusual sporting action 8.00 Tennis World Sport. International sporting news and features

9.00 News and Summary. Followed by *Formula 1 Racing: The Morning Line*. A preview of this weekend's racing

9.30 A Cosmic Inheritance. The poet and historian A.L. Rowse returns to his Cornish roots, reliving the memories and influences of his youth. Subtitled (s)

10.00 Noah's Ark: Winter Refuge. The Spanish wildlife series looks at the Iberian peninsula in its role as a winter refuge for migrating geese, doves and thrushes (r)

10.30 Wagon Train: The Jose Mardia Moran Story (b/w). Vintage film from the 1950s. The wagon train kicks off to protect a white man who has lived with this Pawnee for 15 years and is on the run from a hostile tribe who think he is a real Indian. Starring Robert Loggia

11.30 Tony Jacklin's Pre-Celebrity Golf Challenge. The sportsman, represented by Sam Torrance and Dennis Taylor, play Ronan Rafferty and Bruce Forsyth, representing the Entertainers, over a nine-hole course in Le Touquet (r)

12.30 American Football – Red 42 (s)

1.00 Film: The Great Staline (1948, b/w) starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner and Melvyn Douglas. Handsome but heavy-going period drama, loosely based on Stalin's noted 1936 *70 Years of the October Revolution* (s)

3.00 Cinema 4 Racing from York. Live coverage of the Tattersalls Millions Auction Series. Nursery Handicap Final (3.15); the Pockthorpe Stake (3.45); Coral Sprint Trophy (4.15); and the Caring Black Label Leger Stakes (4.45)

5.05 Broadscale. Omnibus edition (r). (Teletext) (s)

6.30 News headlines and weather followed by *Right to Reply*. Includes a discussion on whether there should be a televised debate between the party leaders at the next general election. (Teletext)

7.00 South.

(c) CHOICE: The premise behind *South* is that the developing world only appears on our screens when there is bad news to tell. The series aims to challenge this convention by giving film-makers from developing countries the chance to set their own agendas. Ironically tonight's first item is an all too familiar ecological disaster story about third world exploitation. Pablo Lavin a man in an angry mood paper for fix machines. He takes his case with an inventive combination of reportage, dramatisation, graphics and experimental video techniques. But the film is a personal view of the Cuban capital, Havana, by a Cuban director who becomes so obsessed with style that the content is almost buried. In between there is a charming, though slightly double edged, fable from Cameroon reflecting that country's huge passion for football



Highland fling: Duncan Macrae with Alec Guinness (8.00pm)

8.00 Film: Times of Glory (1960). The Alec Guinness season continues with this powerful military drama about a clash of personalities between the hard-drinking CO of a Scottish infantry regiment (Guinness) and his disciplinarian successor (John Mills). With Dennis Price, Susannah York, in her first film, and Gordon Jackson. Directed by Ronald Neame. (Teletext)

10.00 Next Stop Hollywood. The series of short films by new American directors continues with Robert Resnikoff's *The Jogger* (1987) starring Terry O'Quinn as a jogger who finds himself running for his life when a mysterious stalker begins to dog his footsteps

10.30 Hysteria III. Stephen Fry introduces a music and comedy event in aid of the Terrence Higgins Trust, one of the UK's leading AIDS charity, recorded at the London Palladium in June. Among those taking part are Rowan Atkinson, Elton John, Dawn French, Mike McShane and Melvyn Bragg (s)

12.45am Sumo: the London Bash. Highlights from the fourth of the five-day competition from the Albert Hall, introduced by Lyall Watson and Charles Palmer

1.10 The Oprah Whitney Show. Five astute talk show hosts discuss how their experiences in outer space have changed their lives (r)

2.00 American Football – Red 42 (r) (s). Ends at 2.25

Wales News and Sport

SCOTTISH

As London except: 5.15pm-5.20 Carlton

7.30-7.45am Men 1.00 Cue to the Music 2.00

Championships 2.30 Speedway Triangular

3.15 Match 3.30 Film: The Case of the Sausage Shopper 4.00-4.30

5.00-5.30 William Tell

BORDER

As London except: 5.05pm-5.20 Border

7.00-7.15am Men 1.00 Cue to the Music 2.00

3.00-3.15 Film: The Case of the

Sausage Shopper 4.00-4.30 William Tell

CENTRAL

As London except: 5.15pm-5.20 Central

7.30-7.45am Men 1.00 Cue to the Music 2.00

3.00-3.15 Film: The Case of the

Sausage Shopper 4.00-4.30 William Tell

GRANADA

As London except: 5.10pm-5.20 Granada

7.30-7.45am Men 1.00 Cue to the Music 2.00

3.00-3.15 Film: The Case of the

Sausage Shopper 4.00-4.30 William Tell

TYNE TEES

As London except: 5.05pm-5.20 Tyne

7.30-7.45am Men 1.00 Cue to the Music 2.00

3.00-3.15 Film: The Case of the

Sausage Shopper 4.00-4.30 William Tell

ULSTER

As London except: 5.05pm-5.20 Ulster

7.30-7.45am Men 1.00 Cue to the Music 2.00

3.00-3.15 Film: The Case of the

Sausage Shopper 4.00-4.30 William Tell

Wales News and Sport

As London except: 5.15pm-5.2

THE TIMES

BUSINESS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1991

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-24
- WEEKEND MONEY 25-34
- SPORT 35-40

WEEKEND MONEY

Back home

Yesterday was a day for missing conferences. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, missed the Conservative party conference celebrations of the latest fall in the rate of inflation from 4.7 to 4.1 per cent. He was on a plane to Bangkok, where leading finance ministers are meeting to talk about aid to the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, the Soviet delegation was not in the Thai capital, but back in Moscow hammering out the details of economic union between the constituent republics. Page 23



Home help

The Halifax will refund some of the initial cost of buying a house by repaying part of the mortgage indemnity premium if borrowers move within five years. Page 29

Bonus fears

Hundreds of Scottish Mutual policyholders are in danger of missing out on a bonus worth thousands of pounds, which is due to be paid next year. Page 26

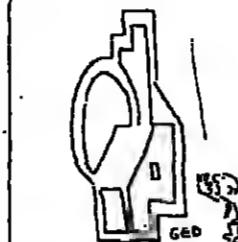
Estates survey

Iain Vallance, BT chairman, is used to dealing in big numbers. The number he was handling yesterday, 16,000, was of jobs to go over 18 months, bringing a gloomy end to a depressing week on the jobs front. Page 22

Letters

Page 32

Anybody home?



The chief executive of Nationwide Building Society, invites customers wishing to make complaints to write to him personally. A reader calls for ordinary savers and borrowers to be represented on the Nationwide board. Page 23

Clearer picture

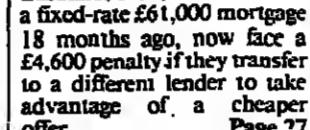
Independent Television Commissioners are at last to decide which television companies will win the regional franchises. Wednesday is the big day. Page 22

Sad redundancy

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of 3i, the venture capital group, described a fellow director's departure as "not a resignation but a sad, senior redundancy". Page 22



Deborah Germain and her husband, Neil, who took out a fixed-rate £61,000 mortgage 18 months ago, now face a £4,600 penalty if they transfer to a different lender to take advantage of a cheaper offer. Page 27



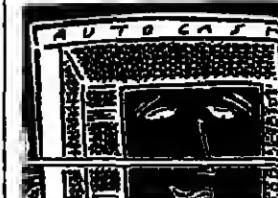
Fox's tale

An internal review carried out at the London Fox futures market shows a series of cash payments to artificially lift trading. Page 23

Gains reduced

Eight cuts in the bank base rates in the past year have reduced gains for building society savers by up to 25 per cent. Unit trusts offer an alternative. Page 30

Secret payouts



Banks secretly compensate thousands of people a year for disputed cash dispenser withdrawals, even though they will never admit publicly that such phantom withdrawals exist. They say the payments are to keep the goodwill of customers. Many more customers, however, are refused these payments and feel they are being treated like thieves. Page 25

WEEK ENDING

Matthew Bond

Links in the chain gang

Malcolm Rifkind is a man familiar with adversity. As a Conservative in Scotland, he has to be. But even he must be alarmed by the storm that has blown up in the wake of the Western Samoan-like encounter with Michael Heseltine that apparently convinced him to link the leafy boulevards of Paris with the definitely unleafy London suburb of Stratford-upon-Lea.

The criticism in particular centres on the transport secretary's suggestion that the £4 billion needed to build the high-speed rail link to the Channel tunnel should be provided by the private sector. Given that two years of recession has left the private sector distinctly short of spare billions, Mr Rifkind is clearly an optimist.

Those inclined to call him something less polite had been provided with ample ammunition two days earlier by Eurotunnel, the problem-ridden pioneer of private sector infrastructure development. Perhaps anticipating the body blow the transport secretary was poised to deliver to his beloved Channel tunnel,



Sir Alastair Morton painted a black picture of delays, cost over-runs and postponed dividends.

But *Week Ending* believes there is an alternative solution to the problem of private sector involvement. After all, it was not very many years ago that the punishment for a wide range of misdemeanours was a prolonged, often very prolonged, period of sweltering under a burning sun as a member of a chain gang. So, given this government's continuing enthusiasm for self-regulation, anyone linked to the mere whiff of financial scandal could be immediately dispatched for a character-improving period of shid-husting under a pick-axe on the Rainham Marshes.

By providing brains as well as brawn, the rail link might actually get finished. Particularly useful would be Mark Blundell, who this week departed as chief executive of the London Futures and Options Exchange. Part of the rail link's viability depends on selling property at enhanced values, so experience of property trading could win early parole.

Infrastructure projects such as railways need investors able to take the long-term view. At this, of course, there are none better than the Japanese. Although there are no candidates for the chain gang from Nomura's London office, a number of their colleagues in Tokyo could be in for a short, sharp, six-week transfer to Kent. How much of a shock this would prove, and is debatable as all those involved are known to be railway enthusiasts.

A sure way to speed up work would be to sentence Lord Young - fresh from this week's mauling in absentia in the European Court - to an indefinite stretch, making his release conditional on him somehow finding the government funds to make the project pay.

But of course, in a party conference week that saw Chancellor Lamont admit that all governments make mistakes, it would be no surprise to see the rear of the chain gang being brought up by the muscular figure of "lifer" Lawson, muttering that if base rates had stayed at 7.5 per cent a high-speed link to John O'Groats would have been viable. Now, where's that whip?

★★★★★

BUSINESS PROFILE: Lord Weinstock

Electric lord on a short fuse

The head of GEC has a reputation for being tough, mean and rude.

Carol Leonard discovers the reality

Every morning after breakfast, Lord Weinstock of Bowden, managing director of The General Electric Company and one of Britain's longest-serving captains of industry, shuts himself in his dressing room, puts on an operatic compact disc and turns up the volume so high that it could be a live performance.

As he listens, he will sporadically wave either his toothbrush or razor in the air, conducting. If it is an emotional piece, tears will stream down his face. His choice of opera will vary with his mood. For the past week he has been listening to *William Tell*. "It's a very beautiful opera, all about hunting," says Lord Weinstock.

"The fight for Swiss independence. You hear the hunting horn over and over again."

He laughs at any analogy drawn between this renewed interest in hunting horns and the steely eye he is known to have been keeping on British Aerospace, one of GEC's main customers.

"We don't deal in companies," he says. "We are in electrical and electronic engineering, and looking to increase our efficiency. I don't approve of raising money to plunder other companies. If, by buying a company, we could increase our efficiency, that would be different."

He disapproves of the very concept of a conglomerate. "Eventually they all fall to bits." His ambition is to create a business - "that will last forever".

Lord Weinstock, aged 67, is known for his outspoken, often unfashionable opinions, for his dislike, verging on distrust, of both politicians and the City. "I am not a City man," he says. "We have never issued shares, we have never had to borrow. Reluctantly, he elaborates. "It is not a place where I feel fulfilled and I don't actually like it. The counters are passed around ever faster without any real asset being created."

He questions the method by which the City determines the level of share prices. GEC's share price performance has long been disappointing and the Weinstock family does, after all, speak for about 40 million - worth almost £75 million. "They are looking for hype when they should be looking for solidity," he says. "I always do what is in the company's best interest and the share price, if it is rational, ought to follow, but it does not."

The City, in return, is not too keen on Lord Weinstock. They are, after all, complete opposites. He is seen as being unadventurous, cautious to the point of being boring. He is criticised for sitting on a vast cash mountain - now estimated to be in the region of £700 million - when they would rather he had been buying companies. They complain that he dislikes spending money on stockbroking or merchant banking fees, that his meanness is legendary, that his Stanhope Gate offices, off London's Park Lane, have not been redecorated

GEC's offices have been redecorated. What they lack is any hint of glamour. Lord Weinstock admits that he is mean - but only with company money. "The company's money belongs to the shareholders and we have no right to spend it in a way that is not remunerative to the shareholders."

With his own money, he is anything but mean. He has a flat



Proud provider: Lord Weinstock and his wife, Netta, at home in London's Grosvenor Square

in Belgrade, a Georgian house in Wiltshire and a stud farm in Ireland, accommodating 50 mares, 60 horses and 30 foals. He excuses his passion for horse racing by describing it as the ultimate form of competition. As a young man he used to spend his months salary within three days. "I like good things," he says. "I would rather have nothing at all than have something second rate."

He wears a Hermes tie but says that he has never been drunk. He is a man of moderation. "I decided long ago that I didn't want to make money, I wanted to make things," he says. He is however, definitive about any suggestion that he married into money, even though his wife, Netta, is Sir Michael Sobell's daughter. "My family were provided for me, not by him. It is clearly a sore point. Lord Weinstock is a proud man.

He has two children, Susan, aged 36, and Simon, aged 39. GEC's commercial director, Lord Weinstock denies that he would like Simon to inherit his job. "It is simply not true."

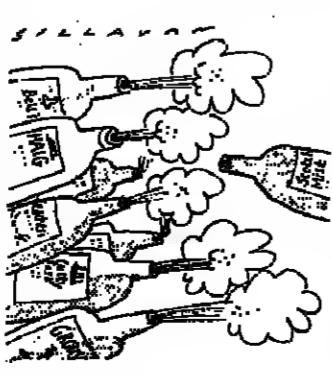
Although not a religious man he does adhere to certain Jewish traditions "merely out of respect to my parents. The things they would have had me do. Maybe it is my way of maintaining some form of connection with them". Those parents, both Polish immigrants - his father was a master cutter for a West End tailor - were dead by the time Lord Weinstock was nine years old. He was brought up in Stoke Newington by his five older brothers, all more than 17 years his senior. It was a happy and far from poverty stricken childhood.

The fact that he had no sisters perhaps explains what he calls a wariness of women. "I am most comfortable with men, I find men more logical," he says. "The relationship between women and the continuity of the race has always made me slightly afraid of them - even if afraid is not quite the right word." It is an unexpected sentiment from such a daunting man, even if he is only daunting because of his intellectual ability. It is more surprising than the vision of him crying as he listens to Verdi's *Requiem*.

I ask him why he is always so controlled, except in the privacy of his dressing room, where even his own family leaves him alone, and he replies that if he were not, he would be more vulnerable. A curious response from a man cushioned from the harsher realities of life, from every day insecurities, by more than 30 years of success. "The more you which is seen to be not in accordance with this mythical idea people have of you, the more vulnerable you are." I question his rationale. "Because you are just like everybody else," he replies. "I really do not want people to see me like that." Has this arch realist, this self-proclaimed, coldly logical thinker, based his life on a false personal image then? He thinks carefully for a minute. "If you are sensitive enough you will develop a hard shell. As a means of protection. You get in first."

A battle fought in the wrong spirit

By Ross TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



MILK whey alcohol must be less nauseating than it sounds. A winery in Nelson, New Zealand, has run afoul of the Scotch whisky industry by selling such potion called Goulter's Scotch Mist.

Don Allen, the managing director of the Redwood Cellars

winery, has received court papers from representatives of Scotch producers alleging unfair trading and seeking an injunction to take the product off the shelves. "They have come on very heavy, but I don't see how anyone could be misled into thinking our product was Scotch whisky," Mr Allen said. And he has altered the labels of his product to make it plain it is not. The guardians of Scotch whisky's reputation are not so easily satisfied, however. The Scotch Whisky Association robustly declared: "A product can only be called Scotch if it is made in

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Robinson interims plunge to £22m loss

By MARTIN WALLER

THOMAS Robinson, the debt-burdened engineering group, has revealed the extent of the woes that cost many of the directors their jobs in July. Pre-tax losses were £22.5 million in the six months to June 30, against a profit of £10.4 million last time. There is no interim dividend (1.5p).

Roy Barber, the company director who took over as chairman when Graham Rudd, the previous chairman, and two other directors left, gave a warning that the group's short-term prospects were poor. Robinson was reducing stock but because of the nature of its products and markets, there would be no immediate benefit to cash flow.

Operating losses were £9.75 million. A £12.6 million exceptional item covered redundancy and reorganisation costs, and stock obsolescence.

Property valuations made last year and credited to reserves had been reversed. These related to two properties that Mr Barber decided to identify. The result was an £8.26 million cut in net tangible assets, leaving them just short of total borrowings at end-June of £45.6 million.

"We changed our strategy with regard to the use and future of two major properties," Mr Barber said. "That rendered the concept of the revaluation last year inappropriate."

He described the level of borrowings as "disappointing", particularly given the £21 million sale in June of the electrical contracting business.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7197 (+0.0020)
German mark 2.9097 (+0.0042)
Exchange index 90.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1953.9 (-2.5)
FT-SE 100 2555.0 (-15.8)
New York Dow Jones 2973.39 (-3.13)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24157.72 (-327.54)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISSES:
Hartstone 223p (+12p)
Anglia TV 'A' 2205p (+10p)
Ti 6142p (+10p)
Quarto 1481p (+10p)
Ultramed 270p (+12p)
FALLS:
Cavendish Group 724p (-18p)
Laporte 863p (-8p)
Albert Fisher 863p (-8p)
Cadbury-Schweppes 401p (-8p)
Kwick Save 5571p (-12p)
Legal & General 582p (-10p)
British Gas 2581p (-18p)
Independent 2041p (-10p)
RHM 151p (-15p)
Sotheby's 6124p (-12p)
AIM 200p (-10p)
Rank Org 6383p (-18p)
Costain Group 722p (-12p)
P&P 102p (-10p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.1%
3-month interbank 10.1%
3-month eligible bills: 10.9%
US: Prime Rate 8.7%
Federal Funds 8.7%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.94-4.97%
30-year bonds 10.2%
10.225%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 51.7185 £ 1.7197
\$ DM 2.9111 £ DM 1.6925
\$ 2.5500 £ 1.6925
\$ FFF 9132 £ FFF 7685
\$ 2.6205 £ 2.6205
\$ 1.2000 £ 1.2000
ECU £ 0.703649 SDR £ 0.728250
\$ 421.183 £ 1.261272
London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$557.25 pm \$357.75
close \$557.75-568.25 (£206.00-
208.50)
New York:
Comex \$360.45-360.95*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) £22.10 bbl (\$22.15)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.8 September (1987-100)

* Denotes midday trading price

BT to shed 16,000 jobs over 18 months

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT is to shed 16,000 engineers, clerical workers and telephone operators over the next 18 months. The telecommunications group said the cuts were the combined result of technical advances and the recession.

The latest job cuts at BT, which employs 227,000, include about 6,000 of the 8,100 telephone operators' jobs expected to be lost in the cutbacks. The company, chaired by Iain Vallance, has agreed with the National Communications Union, which represents most of those affected by the latest round of cuts that all redundancies will be voluntary. BT has agreed to redeploy staff where possible, with no pay cuts for four years even where the new job is at a lower grade.

More than 7,000 of those affected will be engineers who are becoming redundant as the programme to install modern digital telephone exchanges, which need less maintenance, nears completion.

The NCU said the engineering job losses would be concentrated in London and the Southeast. The union regretted government restrictions that prevented BT diversifying into new areas, such as cable television, which would have allowed the company more scope in finding new work for surplus staff.

However, the union has cooperated with BT in an effort to ensure that those who go will be volunteers. A spokeswoman said: "We have never stood in the way of new technology. We realised there would be an effect on jobs unless BT was able to expand into other areas."

Some of the skilled engineers shed by BT could probably find work with BT's emerging rivals, including Mercury and cable television companies.

The prospects for telephone operators may be less rosy. By the end of the present cost-cutting programme, BT will have shed more than 8,000 of its 19,000 operators. The job-shedding has been made possible by technology that enables operators to handle more calls and by the drop in demand for directory en-

tries in the wake of the introduction of charges for the service this year.

Redeploying operators is proving difficult. The contraction of the service and its concentration in low-cost areas outside the Southeast, will result in the closure of all exchanges in the London area.

BT's cost-cutting programme should benefit customers through lower charges and increased efficiency. Renewed evidence of the company's determination to cut costs will also assist the task of advisers preparing the sale of half the government's remaining 49 per cent stake in BT, which is expected to occur in the Treasury £5 billion.

However, it also provides further evidence of the pressure on companies imposed by the recession. This week's job loss announcements have included 1,000 redundancies at Ford, 750 on Merseyside at Pilkington, the glassmaker, 700 near Edinburgh at Unisys, the American electronics group, and 740 at the French-owned Ferguson television factory in Hampshire.

Heinz, the American owned food company, is completing details of redundancies and early retirements, expected to total about 90, among sales staff at its head office in Hayes, Middlesex.

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Liberty Life seeks £82m

By NEIL BENNETT

LIBERTY Life, the South African insurance group that owns a 29.9 per cent stake in Sun Life, is holding a R444 million (£32 million) share placing to raise funds for international expansion and increase its European profile.

The issue, combined with the sale earlier this month of a 16.8 per cent stake in Trans-Atlantic, the group's London investment vehicle, to Union des Assurances de Paris, suggests that Liberty is gearing up for a substantial acquisition.

Liberty is placing a minimum of 12 million new shares with British, French and Swiss institutions to breathe life into its oscar-dormant London quote. If demand for the shares is heavy, the group can place up to 20 million. Donald Gordon, Liberty's chairman, said his ambition was to have Liberty quoted as an alpha stock on the London Stock Exchange.

The shares are being placed at a maximum of R37, or a 5 per cent discount to the market price if lower. The minimum issue has been underwritten by SG Warburg.

The share issue is likely to receive strong support from European institutions because of the group's strong financial performance. Net profits last year rose 21 per cent to R218 million and are forecast by analysts to increase by another fifth this year.

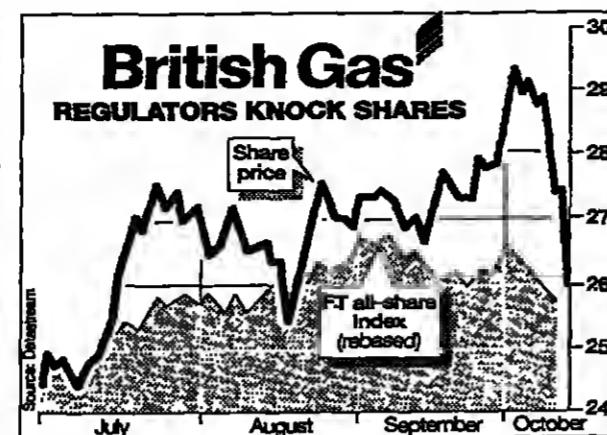
Last month, Liberty and UAP consolidated their controlling stake in Sun Life into a new joint venture company. Liberty now wants to develop its relationship with UAP on the continent.

Cohen drops

A COHEN, the metal ingot maker, blames weakness in the secondary aluminium industry for a setback in pre-tax profits from £1.29 million to £555,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover was £4.2 million (£46.6 million) and the interim dividend is held at 6.6p a share. Cohen suggests there could be a modest recovery in the second half.

*Denotes midday trading price

Lilley competition pledge sends gas shares sliding



did little to help market sentiment. A 30-point rise overnight in New York helped the FT-SE initially, but share prices in London drifted lower. The market continued

BAA, the airports operator, lost 8p to 448p in spite of more signs that the gradual recovery in passenger traffic is continuing. BAA's airports handled 7.3 million passengers in September, a drop of 1.6 per cent on the same month last year, after falls of 7 per cent in July and 2.3 per cent in August.

Meanwhile, news that the headline rate for inflation has fallen to 4.1 per cent, from 4.7 per cent in August, did not match up to some of the more optimistic expectations and

to be depressed by the prospect of an imminent interest rate cut. An uncertain start on Wall Street and no real inspiration from John Major's conference speech did little to help sentiment. The FT-SE

lost on the account. Volume reached a healthy £69.6 million shares. Turnover received an early boost from Transfer Technology, the engineering group, formerly Central & Sherwood, where volume

rose from 1.2 million to 1.5 million shares. The share price fell 12p to 270p, having touched 262p, on a volume of 1.5 million. The prospect of a flop seems more likely as this is a substantial discount to the rights price of 380p.

Hillside, the food to furniture group, stayed below its rights price of 210p, falling another 4p to 205p, and casting doubt on its cash call.

Asda, the troubled supermarket chain in the middle of a £357 million rights issue and refinancing, is cutting 414 jobs. The shares ended unchanged at 40p, against its rights price of 35p. British Telecom, down 4p to 404p, is also cutting jobs.

Ultrasound climbed 12p to 270p on bid speculation, centred on British Gas, and before next week's analysts' trip to the California operations, Glaxo lost 12p to 13.62p in a bid response to

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SmithKline Beecham initially climbed 2p, but ended unchanged at 738p in anticipation of next week's launch of Halflan, the group's anti-malaria drug.

Television shares enjoyed a flurry of activity before the announcement of the franchise awards next week. Amstrad was among the best at 221p, up 21p, while Carlton Communications gained 9p to 519p. Granada 2p to 165p, the LWT convertible preference 9p to 124p and Border TV 14p to 57p on the USM.

Big gains in bonds lift Dow

New York — Blue chips made mild gains in morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was 3 points higher at 2,795.52. Sharply higher bond prices provided support.

□ **Tokyo** — Shares closed lower. Trading was thin on the one trading day between Thursday's holiday and the weekend. The Nikkei index was down 32.54 points, or 1.4 per cent, at 2,157.72.

□ **Hong Kong** — Prices closed sharply lower after early selling dampened sentiment. The Hang Seng index fell 38.24 points to 4,017.98.

□ **Frankfurt** — Shares ended mixed after an uncertain day.

The Dax index ended 0.47 points up at 1,568.42.

□ **Sydney** — The market closed slightly lower in nervous trading as falls in offshore markets continued to cast confidence. The all-share index closed at 4,017.98.

□ **Singapore** — Prices closed mostly higher. The Straits Times industrial index closed at the day's high of 1,532.37, up 16.39 points. (Reuter)

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Five years after the Financial Services Act came into operation, insurance salesmen may have to demonstrate that they know a bit about the policies they sell. The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) this week published its proposals on training and competence, which should be in place by 1993.

The policy-buying public might have expected a little more, a little sooner. Last year, the McDonald report concluded that competence in the industry was fragmented and inconsistent. This is not surprising as there are no minimum training standards.

Now Lautro has put its mind to coming up with some standards. Companies will have to ensure that the training, in terms of both knowledge and skills, of company representatives is properly organised from 1993. These training arrangements will be vetted by the regulator.

Once again, the recommendations fall short of examinations set by outside bodies for sales-

men. Minimum standards of knowledge could be certified by such tests. Salesmen could also be required to go through their sales routine for examiners. It is a missed opportunity.

Insurance groups vary widely in their training and will, no doubt, continue to do so. Lautro says that some companies will have little to do to meet the common threshold standard of competence.

Others will have to spend a lot of time and money because their current training is virtually non-existent or ignores training once the salesman has completed a 48-hour induction course.

It does not matter to some firms that the sales staff are unclear about the different tax regimes of a personal equity plan and an investment bond, so long as they know which one pays most commission or is part of



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

this month's special promotion. Even when the common threshold is imposed on new recruits the different philosophies of companies may still be more important.

One respected and long-established insurance company with a large direct sales force tells of a salesman it had to let go. He was doing a lot of business for the company but was rather too forceful when completing a deal. The company felt he was not suited to investment selling and told him so. A call soon came from a rival company asking why

the salesman had been let go. His hard-sell tactics were detailed and the rival company took him on and asked if there were any more like him.

The skills and knowledge of existing staff will have to be formally assessed before they are allowed to practise, once the new training requirements come into force.

However, the assessment will be carried out by staff from the same company, whose competence will, in turn, have been judged by colleagues.

Most customers would be

horrified at how little training the so-called investment expert who advises them on pensions or endowment mortgages actually has. If serious standards are not to be set for salesmen, investors will have to do more to educate themselves before they invest. It may mean more awkward questions for salesmen, which can be no bad thing.

A blessing

Nationwide savers have good reason to thank Rev Vivian Singh. He proposed that the building society should inform existing savers when introducing new accounts and allow them to take immediate advantage of better savings rates.

His motion attracted the postal votes of almost 90,000 members

despite the society pointing out to members that the resolution would not be binding on the board. However, the society swung the vote with proxies.

While the society's rules have not been changed, its practices have. When three new accounts were launched this month, the society told savers in existing accounts that they could get a better rate. The Nationwide has also opened a freephone line (0800 400 417), which can be used at any time for information on interest rates.

Now Mr Singh would like to have a more lasting influence on the running of his society and is seeking the backing of 50 society members who have each had £100 invested for two years.

Mr Singh will know that it is not easy to get elected, although Nationwide members made history when they first elected Sheila Heywood to the board. She was not a candidate of the board. This year, she received 157,000 votes more than Tim Melville-Ross, the chief executive.

Banks secretly reimburse phantom cash payouts

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

BANKS secretly compensate thousands of customers every year for disputed cash dispenser withdrawals. Many thousands more are refused any payment and are made to feel that they, their families, or work colleagues are thieves.

The banks have never admitted publicly that phantom withdrawals can happen. They say the payments are to keep the goodwill of customers. The earliest a financial institution came to admitting the possibility that customers were not mistaken was in January, when the Clydesdale Bank said an engineer was being investigated for unauthorised withdrawals from cash machines.

Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, will report next month that the number of complaints about cash dispensers increased substantially to the year to the end of September. It has on several occasions found, for the customer when the bank has been unable to produce a satisfactory audit trail or computer records.

The Consumers' Association plans a campaign of court cases against banks and building societies that refuse to compensate customers for disputed withdrawals. It wants the courts to test the infallibility of the machines. Last month, it backed a case involving a customer who disputed £570 of withdrawals from his Bank of Scotland account. The bank settled out of court without admitting the infallibility of its cash dispensers.

On Tuesday, representatives of the banks meet Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to discuss plastic card fraud and ways of increasing security. The banking ombudsman favours the introduction of cards and machines that use a thumb print for identification instead of a number. It and the Consumers' Association also back the use of cameras to record cash dispenser withdrawals.

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "A lot of bank customers are certain they have not made withdrawals and that their card was secure. The banks pass immediate members of the family in the dock. It can be very unpleasant. It is not enough to make discretionary payments. We would like the situation to change so that with any disputed transaction the burden of proof is with the bank."

When the banking code comes into force, next year, the onus should be on banks



to prove the negligence of customers or compensate them. Some banks are already anticipating this regime to some extent.

Lloyds Bank says it makes thousands of ex gratia payments a year to customers who dispute cash dispenser withdrawals.

"We do give established customers the benefit of the doubt once," said the bank. Although, the bank does expect the customers to report the disputed withdrawal to the police before a payment is made.

Barclays, the largest of the big four banks, said 5,000 disputes about plastic cards could not be resolved by branches last year. It had 151 million automated teller transactions in 1990. "We do make ex gratia payments at the manager's discretion," the bank said.

When the customer of any bank disputes a withdrawal, the bank first of all finds out the time and place of the transaction. Often that is sufficient to remind the customers of withdrawals they have genuinely forgotten. The vast majority of disputed withdrawals involve machines close to the customer's home or work say the banks.

They also say that inspection of the audit rolls of the machines often reveal that the children or the spouse of the

customer used their own cards in the machine at the time of the so-called phantom withdrawal. This might come to light if customers are adamant that they did not use the specified cash dispenser at that time. Many others are not so easily resolved.

The banks do not claim that machines cannot make mistakes. When a disputed transaction is reported they look at the machine, check the transactions before and after the disputed ones and check that the machine has no history of malfunctions.

All the banks admit cash dispensers can pay out too much if they are stacked incorrectly or old ones are used that stick together. These are rare mechanical faults and are not electronic ones that would allow one customer to dip into another's account by the bank said.

The few established cases where one customer has accessed the account details of another on the screen do not prove that money could be taken from another account, the banks say. This could only happen if, by error, another customer happened to be given the same account number and personal identification number, and then it would be a case of human rather than computer error.

Midland Bank said it did not have a lot of disputed withdrawals because its cards have different "check" digits to other cards.

It will always be possible to withdraw cash from a bank customer's account fraudulently, according to Hugh Jagger, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountancy firm.

Mr Jagger, who is an expert on electronic banking, argues that although most so-called phantom withdrawals actually turn out to have been made by relatives or friends who have found the card and PIN number lying around at home, wherever you have an extremely clever person who is also extremely dishonest, there is always a possibility of fraud by someone totally unconnected with the cardholder.

Such was the case a few years ago when a gang was imprisoned for up to eight years for using ATMs to defraud bank customers of £25,000. They secretly recorded the PIN numbers as cardholders keyed them into the machine, plus account numbers left behind on unwanted receipts.

The data were then programmed onto blank cards bought in bulk from a supplier of security cards. These cards were used successfully to withdraw money fraudulently, leaving countless innocent

Security tighter but total safety not on the cards

accountholders trying to convince their banks that they had not withdrawn the money themselves.

Mr Jagger said that, although it was possible to create a virtually fraud-proof system, the costs would be so prohibitive it would not make commercial sense to do so. He added that while some banks continually update and improve their security systems, others took the view that security was already adequate, although "that is not to say that any is actually insecure".

According to Jim Copson of IBM, manufacturers tend to come up with modifications to the system as soon as a new type of fraud appears, but some banks were slower than others to take advantage of the latest security developments. When a maintenance engineer allegedly defrauded Clydesdale bank customers earlier

this year by collecting card data and PIN numbers while servicing ATMs, the Banking Ombudsman recommended that banks install special barriers to prevent people from inserting cards whilst maintenance work was being carried out. Some banks have followed his advice, but others are still dragging their feet.

Some have also been slow to install new-style cash dispensers, devised to foil "superbhe thieves". These are people who apply a spot of glue to cash dispenser trays to trap cash as it is being dispensed to the customer. The cardholder's account is debited, and the thief collects the cash.

The depth and height at which a machine is set into a wall and how it is angled are now decided by sophisticated criteria that give ATM users greater privacy. Many mi-

chines also have "privacy" filters, which prevent people standing at the side from seeing the screen.

On the other hand, video cameras, which could easily settle arguments about who made a disputed withdrawal, tend to be fitted only on the more high-risk sites.

Mr Copson said: "Believe it or not, it is now very difficult to defraud banks via ATMs. We think we've blocked most of the major loopholes. Most frauds tend to be very petty. A major crime would be apparent to the banks very quickly. They would notice, for instance, if complaints about phantom withdrawals were centred round a certain area, or a certain day."

According to Mr Jagger, ATM fraud is still much more likely to be carried out by people working inside the bank. Mr Copson said that the biggest security risk relating to insiders was exposure to PIN numbers. Nowadays, they did not even appear in their unencoded form on the bank's own database, he said.

"That is why your bank cannot tell you what your number is if you forget it. They have to send you a new number instead."

LIZ DOLAN

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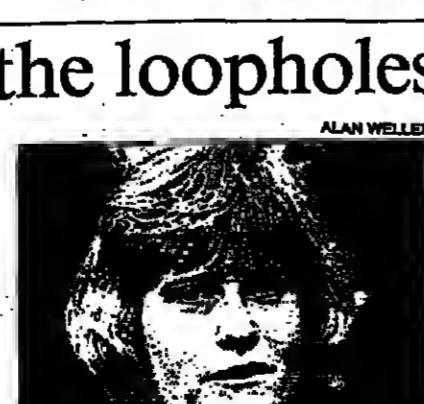
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Caught by the loopholes in the wall

ALAN WELLER



JACKIE Stannard is typical of many of the bank customers who dispute withdrawals from their accounts, according to the Consumers' Association. Since May, the receptionist, who works for an American bank in London, has been challenging five withdrawals totalling £530 made from her Abbey National account (Lindsay Cook writes).

She has witnesses that she was at her desk at the time of the withdrawals; all the staff at her bank are vetted for honesty; she lives alone; and she maintains her personal identification number.

At the request of Abbey National, she has reported the incidents to the police and been involved in a lengthy correspondence. In August, she was told that the bank's complaints procedures had been exhausted and that she would not be reimbursed.

Abbey National said that its records showed that the money was withdrawn from a machine close to where she worked and the personal identification

number was input correctly at the first attempt.

Miss Stannard, aged 27, said: "I have never had any problems with the bank before. It they looked into my account, they would see that I never made such large withdrawals before this. They were always for £20 or £30. I am forced to do so now because

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Borrowers locked in by high redemption costs

Lower interest levels spring penalty trap in fixed-rate loans

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A COUPLE who took out a fixed-rate mortgage for £61,000 in the spring of last year face a £4,600 penalty if they change lender.

When Neil and Deborah Germain bought their first home, mortgage interest rates were still around 14.5 per cent. So the fixed-rate deferred interest loan, offered by UCB Home Loans Corporation at 12.99 per cent for the first year and then 13.45 per cent over the next four years, seemed attractive. It also allowed the couple to defer some of the interest in the early years.

Since then interest rates have fallen steadily. The couple are expecting their first child and are looking at ways of reducing their outgoings. But the UCB penalty means they are locked into the loan and cannot afford to remortgage to reduce their monthly payments by £140 a month.

Mr Germain, aged 25, applied for the loan on their Basingstoke, Hampshire, home through a mortgage broker. "I did not realise how much the redemption penalty could be until I asked what it would cost to change lenders. I expected we would have to pay about two to three months' interest," said Mr Germain, who is a supermarket manager.

He admits that the terms and conditions given to him when he took out the loan gave details of how the penalty would operate. They stated that, for repayment within the five years, there would be additional interest equal to 0.42p per £1,000 of the balance for each 0.5 per cent per annum by which the fixed rate differed from the current rate offered from UCB for each month of the unexpired period of the fixed rate.

The difference between the Germain's fixed rate and the current rate is 2 per cent, so the couple would have to pay £1.68 for each £1,000 of the loan for 43 months. The company estimated this would be £4,640.48.

Richard Shaw, marketing



No choice but to sit it out: Deborah and Neil Germain

director of UCB, said: "We have had to borrow the money and no one wants to make a loss. If we have to reissue the loan, we have to set it at the prevailing rate. We have many people who took out loans at 9.5 per cent over five years and are just completing their terms and are very happy."

He continued: "The prevailing

He added that there had to be a 0.5 per cent difference for the penalty to be triggered. Because of this, it was possible when rates fell for people to redeem their mortgages without paying a penalty. The company would also transfer mortgages to new properties, he said.

Mr Shaw said the company had an explanatory leaflet available on request.

The couple have looked at the possibility of getting a variable-rate mortgage, but their home is worth £65,000 to £66,000 and they would need to borrow £69,500 to clear the mortgage and the penalty payment.

"I have no choice but to sit it out. I cannot afford to take out a bank loan to pay the penalty. We've been caught fair enough and I want to warn other people to work out what the penalty might mean for them."

Most mortgage lenders express the early redemption penalty as months of interest. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society closed its fixed-rate mortgage over five years at 10.2 per cent to new applicants on Monday. Borrowers are warned that the early redemption penalty is six months' interest for those who do not take out another C&G loan.

This is the first five-year guaranteed rate the society has offered. More than £100 million has been taken up in two weeks, although it has the highest redemption penalty imposed by the society. This may be reduced as the term gets under way so that people selling up in year five do not feel unduly penalised.

TSB has offered five-year fixed-rate mortgages since 1987 and charges redemption penalties of three months' interest. The first fixed-rate was set at 9.9 per cent, and to date only 7 per cent of borrowers have redeemed their loans. And most of these people have managed to escape the penalty by taking out another mortgage with the TSB.

Interest rate was a good bit higher when the mortgage was taken out and the borrower was looking for cash flow. Unfortunately for him the rates have come down since then. You've got to get a crystal ball to find out what is happening to the rates. Our rate of redemption is no worse than anyone else's."

Tax for few leaves the rest in peace

WITH inheritance tax apparently set to become an election issue, a report was published this week pointing out that the vast majority of people leave estates below the threshold for this tax (Lindsay Cook writes).

The study, by Chris Hammett of Nuffield College, Oxford, and Professor Peter Williams of the University of Wales, estimates the value of housing left in estates last year to be £9 billion — an average of £60,000 per estate. Even by the year 2025, when twice as many properties will be inherited, it estimates that the vast majority of estates will still fall below the current £140,000 starting point for the tax.

This calculation assumes that property prices will not rise by more than 5 per cent a year over the next 34 years.

The value of housing left in estates rose from £465 million in 1986-9 to £5.4 billion in 1986-7. Most of this rise was caused by house price inflation, as the number of estates containing houses and flats increased by 20 per cent from 125,000 a year to 150,000 a year.

The report, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, predicts that the number of houses inherited will double by 2025 because of the increase in owner occupation over recent years.

The pattern of inheritance is uneven, with the over-50s accounting for 63 per cent of beneficiaries and those in the professional and managerial jobs most likely to benefit from inherited house property. About 75 per cent of the properties were sold immediately and the proceeds were invested by almost half of the beneficiaries. Building societies were the largest single recipients of the money.

Investment groups want to alter that pattern. The Unit Trust Association is trying to persuade solicitors, who are very influential as to where money is invested, of the value of equity investment. Of

those who invested the money, the survey of 10,650 people showed that most subsequently spent the inheritance on general consumption. This left very little for investment in businesses.

It showed that 1,326 of the households questioned contained one or more members who had inherited house property or proceeds at some time in their lives.

The authors say that the level of housing inheritance will also be influenced by the number of elderly people borrowing against the value of their homes. "Schemes for extracting equity may also increase. Housing equity can either be used in life or bequeathed; but not both."

The Inland Revenue leaflet

"What Happens When Someone Dies" has been revised and is available from all tax offices and enquiry centres. It explains that debts such as fuel bills or mortgage payments owing at the time of death can be deducted from the estate total to reduce the tax bill.

Later this month, the Law Society is to launch a campaign to encourage people to make a will. This can save inheritance tax if estates are above the £140,000 threshold.

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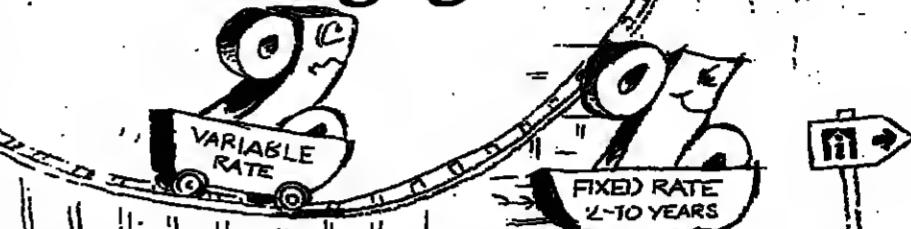
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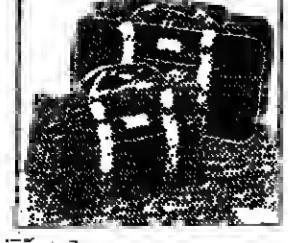
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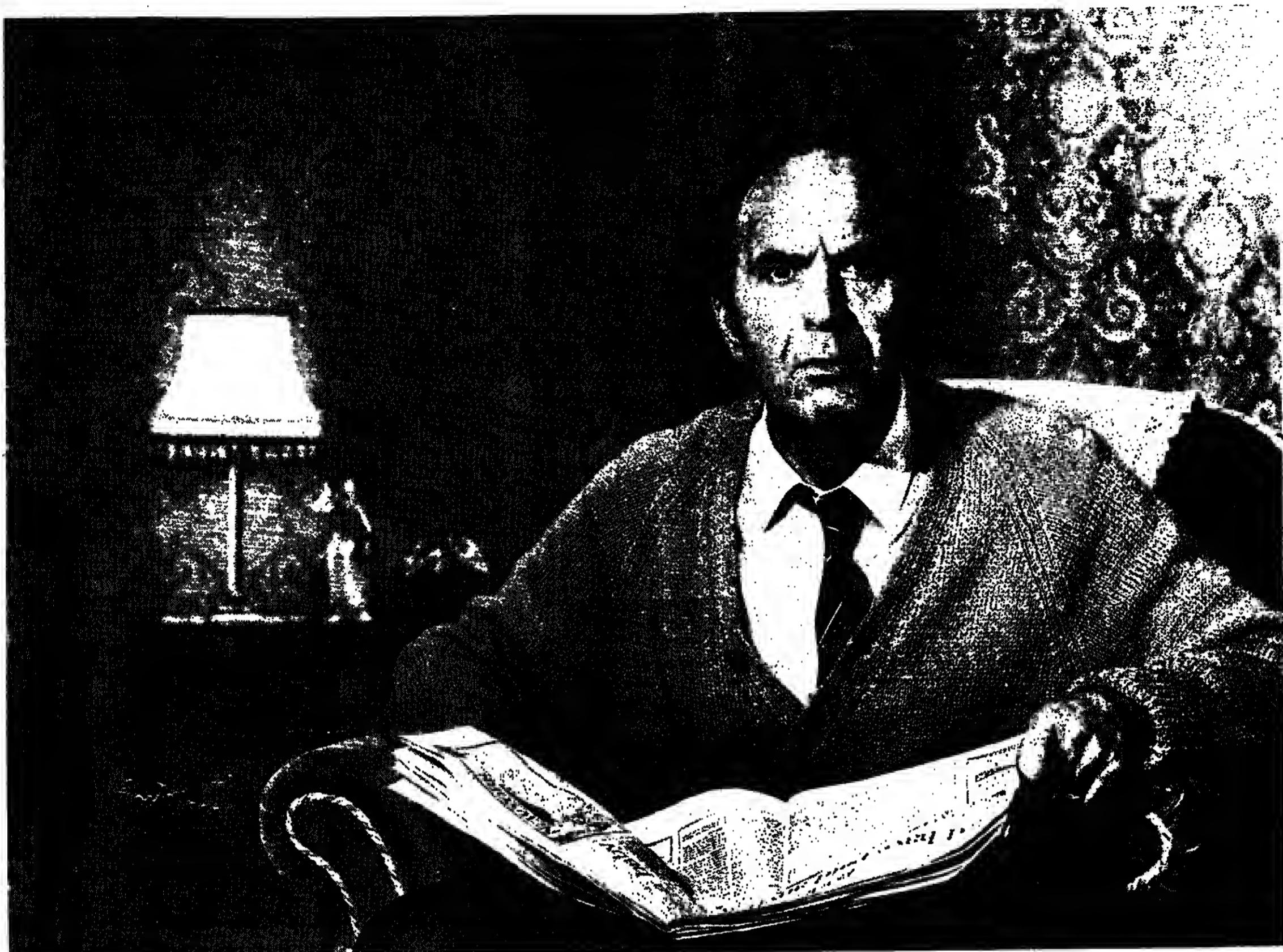
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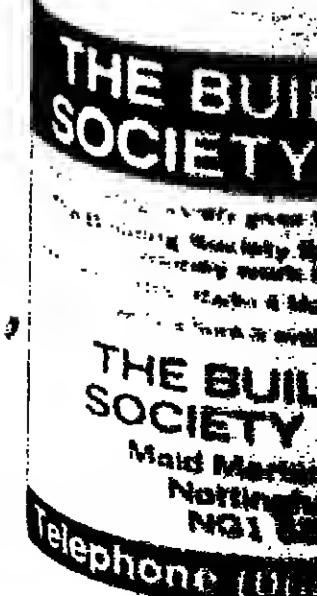
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Quick movers win better deal on indemnity refunds

By JILL INSLEY

HALIFAX building society has taken the lead in a scheme to save home buyers money. It is offering to refund part of the initial costs of buying a house — mortgage indemnity insurance — to home owners who sell up and move within five years.

Mortgage indemnity insurance is paid for by the home buyer but benefits the lender, who is protected against the risk of having to repossess the property and sell it at a loss.

The cost of insurance varies with the size of your mortgage relative to the cost of your house. The smaller the deposit the bigger the insurance premium. Someone who can afford to put down 25 per cent or more of the value of their house would usually not have to pay for any mortgage indemnity insurance at all.

But for those home buyers who have a deposit of only 5 or 10 per cent — which means most first-time buyers — the cost can be hefty. For example, someone borrowing 95 per cent of the money needed to buy a £60,000 house would have to pay the Halifax £840.

That is quite a lot of money, but many buyers do not get their money's worth. The insurance is priced to cover the lender throughout the whole term of the mortgage, often 25 years. Most of the risk to the building society (therefore most of the cost of the insurance) relates to the early years of the mortgage.

Yet the home buyer can still lose out if he or she moves within only a few years of purchasing. And then, of course, they may have to pay for another chunk of mortgage indemnity insurance on their next home.

The Halifax has addressed this problem by quietly refunding part of the initial insurance premium. It will repay 75 per cent of the premium if the property is sold in the first year, 60 per cent in the second year, 45 per cent in the third, and 30 per

cent in the fourth and fifth years.

The building society says its average length of mortgage is about six years, and first-time buyers in particular tend to move within the five years of taking out a loan.

Most other lenders do not refund. Michael Shaw, managing director of the Britannia building society, says the society used to be able to make refunds to home owners who sold up in the first year of the mortgage, because the insurance company refunded the society in turn. "They stopped so we stopped," he says.

Insurers have suffered huge losses on mortgage indemnity insurance because of the housing slump. The weak homes market has led to many more claims on the insurance. Eagle Star and Legal & General, two of the leading mortgage indemnity insurers, each made provision for more than £150 million of future claims in the last few weeks. One estimate suggests the industry might eventually lose £1.3 billion.

These losses are driving up the cost for home owners. Building societies will have to pass on increases of perhaps 25 per cent or more in the cost of mortgage indemnity insurance. Some insurers have already implemented rate increases, while others are renegotiating terms with lenders.

The apparent benefits of a lender offering a slightly lower interest rate may be outweighed by the extra amount it charges you for a mortgage indemnity insurance.

The best way to avoid heavy insurance cost is to have saved a large deposit. This saving is something that Leeds Permanent would like to see return to the housing market. Mr Turner says: "What we want people to do is save up for their mortgage. We might have to go back to the situation of 15 or 20 years ago when people used all their savings as a deposit rather than buying televisions and furniture."

Shaw: stopped repaying

Electricity share deals hampered by BT float

SALES of partly paid electricity shares have been slower than expected. The main reason appears to be a lack of special deals from the major players, whose attention has been diverted by the forthcoming flotation of a further 25 per cent of British Telecom.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays' stockbroking subsidiary, reports a 60 per cent increase in business during the past two weeks. The broker has processed 4,500 "self" orders for electricity shares at an average rate of just 500 a day. Mr Urquhart said he would normally have hoped to generate more sales of partly paid shares before an interim payment was due. However, what would traditionally have been a good marketing opportunity had been suffered from the fact that Barclays was gearing up for the BT offer.

He added that anecdotal evidence indicated that initial allocations of shares had often been so tiny that "people are tending to say they're not worth selling at the moment".

Barclays is one of the eight "share shop" stockbrokers who stand to pick up an enormous amount of business from the BT float. Gavin Oldham, whose Share Centre is not on the list of the privileged BT brokers, did offer special deals on partly

paid electricity shares, including one dealing price for members of the same family. He reports "an awful lot of business" in the run-up to Friday's deadline. He said: "We must have handled around 4,000 sales, which is quite a lot for us."

It is now too late to sell without having to pay the second instalment, because dealings in second instalment paid shares starts on Monday, October 14.

The Department of Energy has given a warning that all second instalment payments should reach the three banks acting as registrars by next Thursday, October 17. This is to allow time for the cheques to clear by 3pm on October 22, the deadline for payment.

Some 3.4 million combined payment notices and interim certificates have been sent out over the past two weeks, chosing a total of £1.5 billion, or 70p a share. People with shares in more than one company have received a separate payment notice and certificate for each of their holdings. They are advised to attach a separate cheque, or bankers' draft, to each one.

For a family of four, each with shares in all 12 companies, that would mean sending 48 cheques. However, this is not always necessary.

Barclays, which handles

Manweb and South Wales, will accept just one cheque to cover all payments made by immediate family members for shares in both companies.

Lloyds, which acts for six companies plus the package units, is happy for family members to combine their payments on one cheque, but requests a separate cheque for each company. The six companies are East Midlands, Southern, London, Northern, Norweb and Seaboard.

Only National Westminster, which deals with Eastern, Midlands, Yorkshire and South Western, demands a separate cheque for every company from every shareholder.

Those who miss the deadline are warned that they may lose their rights to the shares, along with any entitlement they may have to vouchers and bonus shares.

People who receive a payment notice showing the wrong number of shares should return the notice, with a cheque for the correct number of shares, plus a letter of explanation. People who have not yet received their notices or have other queries on interim payments, should contact the relevant helpline: Lloyds 021-433 4466; NatWest 0272 465588; Barclays 071-638 1179.

LIZ DOLAN

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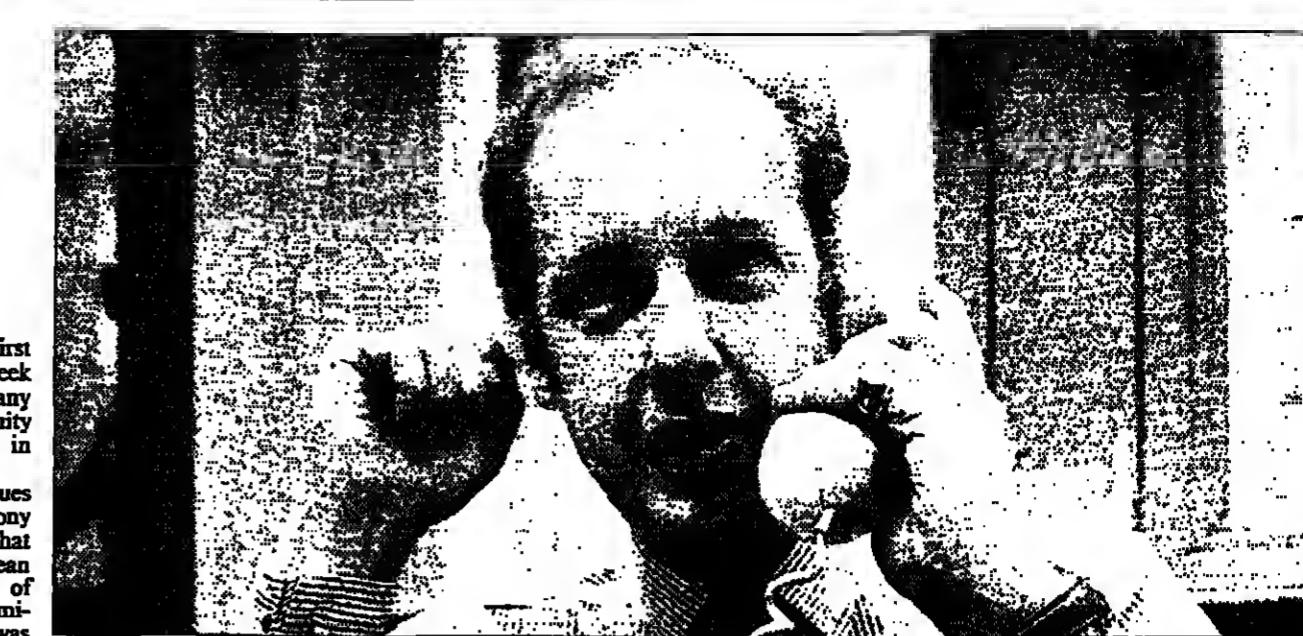
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Strong case: Fidelity's Anthony Bolton believes that Europe is next in the economic cycle

Fidelity places value in Europe

FIDELITY launched its first investment trust this week and became the first company to offer a full personal equity plan investing entirely in continental Europe.

Fidelity European Values will be managed by Anthony Bolton and the same team that manages Fidelity's European unit trust. The portfolio of investments will be very similar to the unit trust. This was the best performing fund in its sector over the five years to the beginning of October, although the last two years have been less than kind to the sector.

Over five years it is showing a gain of 106 per cent. Over three years it is up 50.2 per cent but over two years it has fallen 19.3 per cent and is 103rd out of 110 funds.

Mr Bolton said that Europe had been chosen for the first of a number of investment trusts

because there was a strong case for investing in continental European equities. "Europe was hyped about 18 months ago and since then has underperformed by 20 per cent against the UK and US.

Britain and America were first into the recession and first out. Investors have to look at what is next in the economic cycle and that leads to Europe.

Last year people were looking only at the upside. People are more aware now of what can go wrong."

The 1992 programme ought also to open up opportunities as it gathered pace, said Mr Bolton, who would continue his stock selection approach in investment. The fund hoped for long-term capital growth. Investors should consider it

only if they can afford to tie their money up for at least three years.

The fund will also have a savings plan for people nervous about picking the right moment for a lump sum investment. This starts at £50 a month and has no initial fee. The personal equity plan does have an initial fee of 3.5 per cent plus VAT, and a management fee of 0.75 per cent, plus a quarterly management charge of 0.25 per cent. Partial withdrawals of £1,000 can be made from the tax-free plan at any time, although a 10 per cent charge will be levied.

Potential investors can telephone 0800 414191, 9am-9pm seven days a week, for a mini-prospectus for the fund.

LINDSAY COOK

Politics ginger up the Peps business

By HELEN PRIDHAM

UNLIKE food retailers, the investment industry has always been keen to exploit "sell by" dates. So the possibility that the Labour Party may seek to abolish Personal Equity Plans if it is elected is being used to persuade investors to put all they can into these plans before the next election. One company has even gone as far as launching an Election Pep.

There is always a danger, however, with this type of marketing that investors may get sucked in at the wrong time and for the wrong reasons.

Keith Crowley of Invesco MIM (formerly MIM Britannia), one of the largest Pep managers, acknowledges: "People tend to buy Peps not so much as an investment but because of the tax breaks." Ian Chimes of Henderson also points out: "Pep investors are usually less concerned with investment timing than with the end of the tax year."

Since they were first introduced in January 1987, a total of some £4bn has been invested in Peps, and the amount that individual investors can put in each year has been increased from £2,400 to £6,000.

The main attraction of Peps is that any investment income and capital gains earned are completely free of tax. Ironically, even non-taxpayers appear to find this aspect attractive. According to the Bradford & Bingley, some 14 per cent of its Pep investors this year are non-taxpayers. Two of the less attractive features of Peps, however, are the risks and the charges.

Not all investors have appreciated that even within a Pep there are risks involved in investing in shares and have been shocked when their plans have fallen in value. Micropal's figures show, for example, that 35 per cent of Pep-linked unit trusts are still below the level they were on October 1, 1987, despite the tax advantages.

The risks are increased when a full Pep is taken because at least 50 per cent of your money must be invested directly in a small number of shares (unless you buy into a newly launched investment trust). At Lloyds Bank, for example, where just four or five equities are used, Geoff Bailey admits: "Even if only one lags the market it can have a big impact on performance."

The next year is likely to provide a particularly bumpy ride for investors. At present the stock market is riding relatively high — up over 20 per cent this year. But as opinion polls waver, so too could the market. Geoff Bailey says: "If a Conservative victory seems assured, the market is likely to rally strongly and then fall back again after the election, while the prospect of a Labour government may depress the market initially but it will recover again as pragmatism sets in."

But this factor is often played down. John Spiers of BEST Investment, which publishes Best Pep Advice, echoes a number of commentators when he argues: "Investment performance is far more important than charges. An extra 1 per cent growth can offset even the highest Pep charges over a few years."

Yet comparing performance also remains a problem. So far, even after four and a half

years of Peps, none of the major independent performance monitoring organisations has come up with a satisfactory method of measuring Pep performance.

Yet the importance of performance can be seen in the accompanying table which shows the results of Peps taken out with some of the largest managers when Peps first became available in January 1987. The managers were asked to provide these figures

companies do not make any extra charges on top of their usual management fees. Others are fairly modest.

Save & Prosper, for example, adds an extra 0.25 per cent a year charge to the 1 per cent charged on its High Return unit trust, which still gives the fund an edge within a Pep.

Henderson's Election Pep, however, will be levying its 1.5 per cent annual charge on the whole amount invested, including the portion that will be placed in its Extra Income fund which already bears a 1 per cent fee.

While a Pep may well bring long-term rewards, particularly if a future Labour government lowers the capital gains tax threshold, careful thought should be given to the matter before rushing into one.

Geoff Bailey of Lloyds Bank believes that time is still on the investor's side. He points out: "All the Labour Party have said is that they are going to review the situation. They have not given a firm commitment to abolish Peps. I suspect that it will not be one of their most pressing priorities if they do come to office."



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GT-INVESTMENT MANAGERS

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Unit trusts open doors for savers

By HAZEL SPINK

EIGHT cuts in base rates over the past year may have been good news for borrowers but many savers have seen dramatic falls in the interest rates paid on bank and building society accounts.

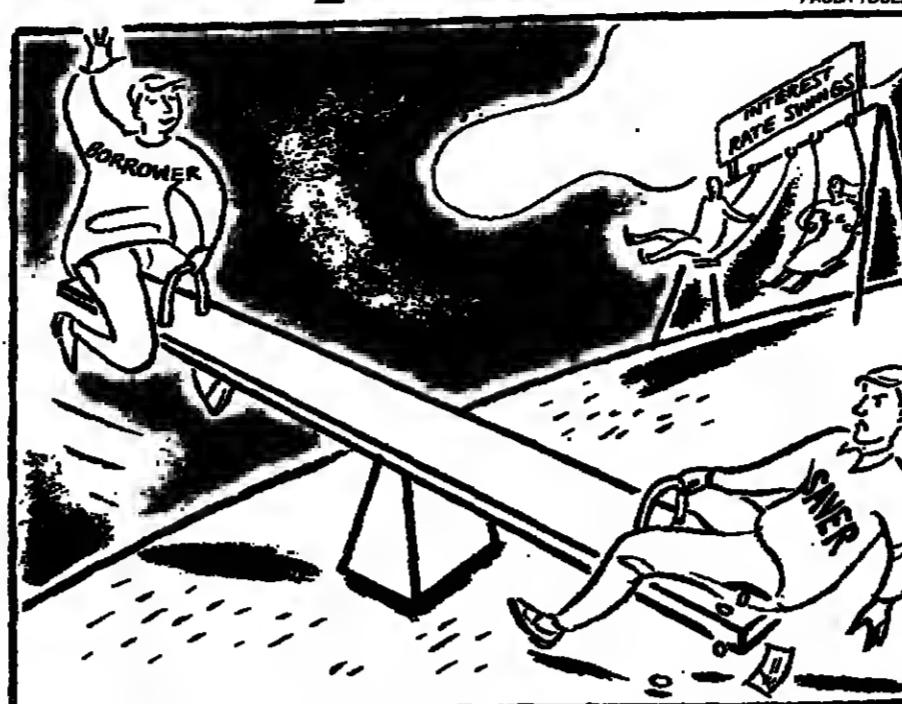
Returns from these accounts have fallen by as much as 25 per cent this year. Investors who rely heavily on the interest from savings may be wondering whether they should be investing in an equity-based product, such as a unit trust or investment trust.

Over the medium to long term, equities have performed better, in terms of both income and capital growth, than deposits. There are also disadvantages.

Income from a building society fluctuates in line with base rates. Individual building societies find it difficult to provide an average rate over the longer term because many of their accounts have not run for very long.

According to the Central Statistical Office, a £1,000 investment in an average building society account would have paid £148 a year in 1980, £124 in 1986 and £142 in 1990. If interest is withdrawn, there will be no capital appreciation. Both income and capital are subject to erosion by inflation.

According to figures from the Unit Trust Association (UTA), the average UK equity income fund with £1,000 in-



vested would have paid £62 a year in 1982, rising each year to £158 a year in 1991.

Income from equity investments rises when the interest from a building society account remains static because the income paid to unit trust investors is paid out of the profits earned by the companies the unit trust has invested in. The combination of growth in the economy and

inflation means that company profits and dividends generally rise.

In addition to rising income, a unit trust or investment trust offers potential capital appreciation. UTA figures show that during a ten-year period, starting in 1981, a £1,000 investment in an income unit trust would have risen to £3,472 whereas a building society account would

have shown no capital growth. Ken Emery, a director of Save & Prosper, said: "Over the last 50 or 60 years there have been relatively few periods when there have been real returns on cash investments. The last few years have been something of an anomaly."

Tim Miller, group marketing director at M&G, said: "The main advantage of a unit trust is that income should rise faster than the retail prices index. If an investor is looking for an alternative to a building society, a unit trust provides a spread of investment, minimising risk."

A £1,000 investment in the M&G Dividend Fund in 1970 would have grown to £5,972 in 1990. The income from the fund would have risen from £40 to £452. A comparable building society account would have paid £49 in 1970 but only £105 in 1990.

Bridget Cleverly, head of marketing at Schroder Unit

Trusts, said: "Building society accounts do provide security of capital, but the level of income from them is variable."

The Schroder Income Fund paid £325 a year on a £5,000 investment in 1981, representing a net annual yield of 6.5 per cent, while a high interest building society account paid £471, a yield of 9.4 per cent. By 1990, the unit trust paid £1,133, a yield of 22.7 per cent, compared with the building society, which paid £474, a yield of 9.5 per cent.

There are some drawbacks to equity investment. First, unless specifically stated, an equity-based investment does not guarantee investors will receive their original capital back.

Second, building societies actually pay a higher income in the first few years than a unit trust. This is because yields on unit trusts rise as dividends rise.

Third, unit trusts are not quite as "recession proof" as some unit trust groups imply. When they receive lower dividends from the companies they are invested in, they, in turn, have to cut the income they pay to investors. Fund Research, the unit trust and investment trust monitoring company, predicts up to 20 per cent of companies may have to cut dividends.

Peter Jeffreys, the managing director, said: "The rate of dividends in the UK corporate sector will slow dramatically as the recession continues to bite."

Furthermore, our research has revealed that a number of high-yielding unit trusts are maintaining their income levels at the expense of capital."

Most fund managers accept that there is pressure on companies to cut dividends but are confident that it is a short-lived and passing phase.

Mr Emery said: "We are expecting income growth over the next year to be modest but as the economic cycle gains momentum company profits should pick up."

Lautro changes training rules

By LIZ DOLAN

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) has come up with proposals for a new training scheme aimed at getting life assurance sales staff to polish up their act. Lautro claims that the proposals will set "a common threshold of competence" for its 190,000 members.

All new recruits, after December 1992, must show, in a formal test, that they have a basic knowledge of the rules governing their industry before they are let loose on clients. They must then be supervised by a more experienced colleague, who will oversee their work and show them, by example, how it is done. They must refer back to their supervisor before completing a sale.

The employer will notify Lautro when the trainee is considered to have reached the required standard. The initial training period is expected to be about six months.

Lautro calculates that it will take at least two-and-a-half years to visit all its members to oversee the establishment of the initial scheme.

A copy of the proposals was sent this week to all members for comments. The scheme will be launched next April. Members will then have until the following January to comply with its requirements. During that period, they will have to formally assess the competence of all existing sales staff.

No Lautro member will be allowed to practise after December 1992 without having first satisfied the requirements of the training and competence scheme.

Comment, page 27

MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD

11th OCTOBER 1991

THE VIEW FROM SAVE & PROSPER

UNITED KINGDOM

Economy coming out of recession - buy smaller companies.

■ Consumer confidence needs to be boosted by further interest rate cuts. Scope for this may be provided with inflation now close to 4%.

■ Increase in corporate activity reflects the fact that industrialists believe the UK stock market currently offers good value.

■ The Conservative Party should improve in the opinion polls following their Conference, as the Labour party did during theirs.

■ Smaller companies outperformed largely by 6.6% during September. We expect this outperformance to continue.

UNITED STATES

Market awaiting signs of strength of economic recovery - buy on weakness.

■ The market, already anticipating a strong improvement in corporate profits in 1992, is likely to be volatile through the current reporting season.

■ The bond market has been strong reflecting low inflation and a supportive Federal Reserve stance.

■ Whilst the manufacturing side of the economy has picked up, the service sector remains very weak, giving the Fed scope to ease rates further.

■ For the market to move higher signs of stronger economic data are required which we expect to be evident in the fourth quarter.

JAPAN

Sustained market rise - buy.

■ The bond market continues to rally on clear signs of economic slowdown.

■ The Bank of Japan's decision to reduce the banks' reserve requirement should help to ease the current credit squeeze.

■ Japanese institutions and individuals are now returning to the equity market.

■ The Japanese market has yet to fully discount the next cut in interest rates, and the pick up in external economies (notably the US).

PACIFIC REGION

Good opportunities in certain markets.

■ Hong Kong's market has risen to an all-time high and has been fuelled by a renewed interest in the residential property market and improved consumer confidence. Retail sector and tourism show signs of recovery.

■ Singapore market has been dragged down by poor sentiment in Malaysia, prompted by rising interest rates.

■ In Australia the economy is finally showing some signs of recovery. Further interest rate reductions are possible.

■ A liquidity easing in Thailand is positive for the market. Political uncertainty however persists in the short term.

EUROPE

Long term, markets offer good value.

■ Whilst the outlook for 1992 remains promising, short term uncertainties (notably German inflation and interest rates) remain.

■ High wage inflation in Germany continues to hamper the possibility of rate cuts.

■ Company earnings next year should be good, but much is dependent on the strength of US economic recovery.

■ When investor interest returns it is likely to be the larger companies which will benefit first, as these are more exposed to the pick up in overseas economies.

COMMODITIES

Base metals outperform during economic recovery - buy.

■ Metal stockpiles are relatively low; so, when the economic recovery gets into full swing, prices should quickly respond to the rise in demand.

■ Gold is expected to trade in a band between US\$350 and US\$400 until the end of 1991.

■ The oil price is expected to strengthen during the fourth quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992 as demand picks up.

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With the Japanese market still some 39% below its all-time high in December 1989 it currently offers excellent prospects for capital gains over the long term.

- An ideal way of capitalising on this potential is, we believe, through Save & Prosper Japan Growth Fund.
- Inflation is on a firmly downward trend and further interest rate cuts are expected before the year end.
- Japan should be a major beneficiary of the US recovery with a rise in exports likely - especially those of electrical and precision companies.
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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Delays tax the patience

From Mr N.T. Hardiman
Sir, It is perfectly reasonable for the Inland Revenue to ask for substantiation of claims for tax relief. What is not acceptable is the difficulty of obtaining the necessary certificates. Here are two examples.

On July 9, I asked Scottish Widows for a certificate showing the additional voluntary contributions which I had paid in 1990-1 to enhance my pension. Having heard nothing from them for a month, I sent a reminder on August 6. There has still been no response.

On April 27, I asked Cigna

for a certificate showing the premiums I had paid in 1990-1 for a private healthcare policy. After sending a re-

minder, I received a letter dated August 15 saying that an application form of transfer to tax-exempt policy was enclosed. On August 21, I replied that the form had not been enclosed. The form has not yet arrived.

Organisations as inefficient as these are not only indifferent to the needs of their customers. They can also delay indefinitely the annual process of making tax assessments. This should surely be a matter of concern to the Inland Revenue.

Yours faithfully,
N.T. HARDYMAN,
Sherwell,
The Drive,
Dawlish, Devon.

Financial innocence

From Dr Des Keenan
Sir, I am amazed at the financial innocence of those

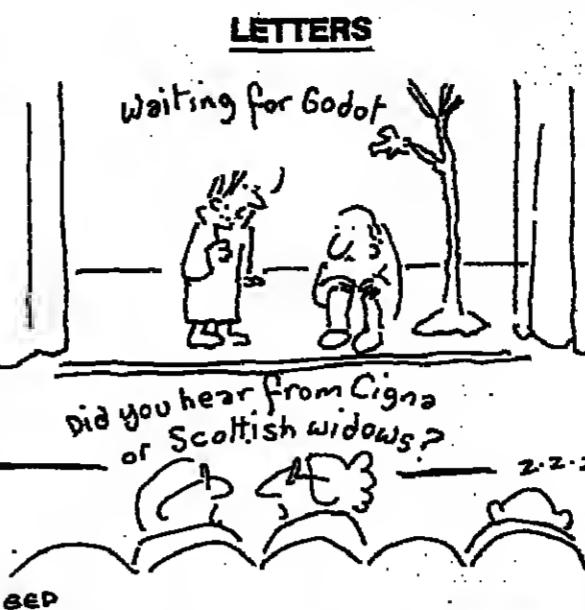
readers (like Mrs Stella Kon, Weekend Money letters, October 5) who assumed they were being financially prudent when they cleared their account at the end of each month. Had they looked at their statements they would have found, typically, "Terms 28 days net, discount 2½ per cent cash". This implied that the supplier fixed his price to allow 28 days credit at 2½ per cent, no more. The financially prudent carried cash in their hip pockets and purses.

Banks and building societies earn their living by hiring

out cash as Moss Bros hire out suits and Avis hire out cars.

A credit card, as distinct from a proper charge card or debit card, allows typically six weeks' free credit. If Avis were to hire out some cars free of charge for the first six weeks, the prudent motorist would hire monthly. This is precisely what I, Mrs Kon, and many others, were doing with our credit cards.

Banks and building societies allow this free credit, up to a point, either as a promotion, or as a loss leader, or to meet the opposition. It is a matter of commercial strategy. But no bank or building society can afford to give away money indefinitely.



GED

On the one hand ...

From Mr Alex Watson
Sir, To continue the series of

NatWest Visa anecdotes ... After being informed of the new annual charge, I returned my card to NatWest. I have now received two letters: the first, from NatWest, was sorry to learn of my recent decision etc, thanked me for my past custom and offered to be of service in the future.

The second letter, also from NatWest, had pleasure in enclosing my replacement NatWest Visa Card!! Yours sincerely, ALEX R. WATSON, 40 Albert Road, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire.

Wives, goods and chattels

From Mrs C.A. Hughes
Sir, In the current climate of adverse publicity for banks and their treatment of customers, and in particular women customers, I should like to advise you of the following.

I have been turned down by First Direct, a subsidiary of Midland Bank Plc, because I refused to disclose details of my husband's income and our monthly outgoings which are serviced entirely by a separate joint account.

The account for which I was applying would have been my account, in my name, fed by my monthly salary, with no liability for joint outgoings. Yours faithfully,

C.A. HUGHES,

25 Ack-Brym,
Radyr, Cardiff.

From Mrs Linda Trotter

Sir, I have twice had to write to my "flexible friend", Access, about the account my husband and I share. On both occasions, the reply has been addressed only to him; indeed, the first letter started thus: "With reference to the letter from your wife..."

If I were to open a single joint account, would it still be ignored, or is it only in marriage that women are invisible, revealing a deep-rooted inflexibility? Yours faithfully,

LINDA TROTTER,
92 Blenheim Place, Aberdeen.

Nationwide and its members

From The Rev V.S. Singh
Sir, Letters to Weekend Money over three weeks indicate that the Nationwide Building Society is not yet resolving members' complaints in a reasonable time.

I believe that the board is responding to recent criticism but that it needs to be strengthened by someone who especially represents the interests of ordinary investors and borrowers. I am willing to stand as a candidate nominated by members in order to achieve:

a) Awareness by the board of members' concerns;

b) A prompt resolution of complaints;

c) Equal treatment of existing and new members;

d) A building societies code of practice.

A candidate needs the support of the signatures of 50 nominating members who have each had £100 invested for two years. I should be glad to hear from any who might consider giving such support. Yours sincerely, VIVIAN S. SINGH, Manor Cottage, Wending Road, Longham, Dersham, Norfolk.

From Mr Peter Madge
Sir, I have been trying since March to get Nationwide to enter into the necessary documentation to reduce my mortgage following maturity of a small endowment policy. I know that the insurers did everything necessary on their part to make the payment on the due date but, like the rest of us, they were simply unable to get any response to their letters. I have recently learnt from them that they eventually succeeded in making their payment to Nationwide in July (and they have confirmed that the cheque was cashed) and yet I am still being asked to pay interest on the original amount of my mortgage and have received no acknowledgement from Nationwide of this reduction in the amount outstanding.

My tally of correspondence on this subject is now six letters from me with one solitary reply from Nationwide (promising action but actually delivering nothing). I have become so concerned by the incompetence within Nationwide that I no longer consider them a proper organisation to have a direct debit mandate from me. Therefore, after giving ample warning of my intention to do so, I have cancelled their direct debit authority and now pay their interest by cheque, after deducting the excess they have taken from my account since March and still include in their monthly demands.

If all your correspondents were to take similar action perhaps the management (surely a misnomer in this case) would eventually wake up to the need to put their house in order if they want to

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 33).

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sunday
1	+5	+1	+1	+3	+5		
2	+7	+1	+4	+2	+3		
3	+5	+3	+6	+2	+2		
4	+5	+6	+1	+4	+5		
5	+7	+6	+5	+2	+3		
6	+7	+1	+3	+1	+1		
7	+6	+2	+3	+1	+3		
8	+4	+1	+1	+4	+4		
9	+6	+6	+6	+3	+4		
10	+4	+3	+2	+1	+2		
11	+6	+2	+2	+1	+1		
12	+6	+4	+6	+4	+3		
13	+5	+3	+2	+2	+2		
14	+6	+1	+4	+1	+2		
15	+5	+1	+1	+4	+5		
16	+5	+3	+4	+2	+2		
17	+4	+1	+1	+3	+5		
18	+5	+4	+4	+2	+4		
19	+8	+2	+3	+2	+2		
20	+4	+2	+2	+5	+4		
21	+6	+1	+5	+4	+3		
22	+7	+2	+6	+1	+1		
23	+5	+2	+3	+1	+1		
24	+6	+1	+3	+1	+2		
25	+4	+1	+2	+5	+7		
26	+6	+5	+6	+3	+2		
27	+5	+1	+2	+1	+2		
28	+8	+1	+3	+1	+3		
29	+5	+1	+1	+3	+5		
30	+6	+1	+3	+1	+2		
31	+7	+3	+5	+4	+3		
32	+9	+2	+4	+1	+3		
33	+8	+2	+2	+1	+2		
34	+6	+1	+1	+2	+5		
35	+6	+1	+1	+3	+6		
36	+6	+2	+3	+1	+6		
37	+7	+1	+2	+1	+2		
38	+5	+2	+2	+1	+1		
39	+7	+6	+4	+2	+2		
40	+4	+1	+2	+1	+2		
41	+6	+1	+1	+5	+5		
42	+5	+8	+4	+2	+4		
43	+5	+3	+2	+2	+3		
44	+9	+1	+3	+2	+1		

At the Bristol & West, we like to ensure that your money

grows. That's why we're offering the Bonus Interest Bond Issue 1.

It's a 12 month Bond that gives you very competitive

rates of interest. What's more, we guarantee you consistently high levels

of interest throughout the lifetime of the Bond by paying up to 5% gross* over the minimum gross rate payable on our Select account.

But high interest doesn't mean never being able to get to your money. You can have instant access once every 12 months to up to £1000 as long as at least £5,000 remains in your Bond.

At the end of the 12 months, you get immediate access to your savings.

But if you decide to leave your original investment with us for a further 12 months we'll give you a loyalty interest bonus of 0.25% gross in addition to the interest you've already earned. And we'll repeat this offer at the end of the second

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Interest Bond for a full 3 years. If this sounds like what you want for your savings, it couldn't be easier to open a Bond.

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I/We wish to open a Bonus Interest Bond Issue 1 and enclose a cheque for £_____ (min £5,000).
Cheques should be made payable to Bristol & West Building Society A/C ... (followed by your name) e.g. Bristol & West Building Society A/C Mr John Smith.
Please write your name and address clearly on the reverse of your cheque.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Address

Postcode

Tel. No.

TMS/12/10

Please send to Bonus Interest Bond 1, Bristol & West Building Society, P.O. Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7AX.

CALL US FREE ON 0800 100 117

*Rate correct at time of going to press. + Gross rates guaranteed above gross variable rate or minimum rate payable for Select Account for the duration of the Bond. £5,000-£8,999 4.50%; £10,000-£24,999 4.75%; £25,000 + 5.00%. Bond will be withdrawn without notice when funding requirements are met. ** Interest will be payable out of the basic rate of Ian 12 months after the Bond is opened. You may be required to pay tax on gains or subject to required certificates, gross interest will be paid. A member of the Building Societies Association.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend on this page. If it matches this figure you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You can always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	Bank Of Ireland	Banks, Discount	
2	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
3	Tomkins	Industrials S-Z	
4	Eurotherm	Electricals	
5	Blocks Ltd	Drapery Stores	
6	News Corp	Newspapers, Pub.	
7	Greensill	Breweries	
8	Meyer Int	Building Roads	
9	Roper	Industrials L-R	
10	Consumer People	Electricals	
11	Reed Int	Newspapers, Pub.	
12	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
13	Prop Security	Property	
14	Drive Hikes	Paper, Print, Adv.	
15	Land Sec	Property	
16	Shell	Oil, Gas	
17	Taylor Woodrow	Building Roads	
18	Siebe	Industrials S-Z	
19	VSEL	Industrials S-Z	
20	Coal Pte	Oil, Gas	
21	Smurfit Tech	Paper, Print, Adv.	
22	Scot TV	Leisure	
23	Rockin & Colman	Industrials L-R	
24	Euston	Drapery Stores	
25	Wolesey	Industrials S-Z	
26	Morar	Industrials L-R	
27	Attwoods	Building Roads	
28	Nu-Send	Industrials L-R	
29	Burman Devs	Building Roads	
30	Bonsu	Industrials A-D	
31	GEC	Electricals	
32	HTV Group	Leisure	
33	Ladbrokes	Hospital, Cafes	
34	Granada	Industrials E-K	
35	Tibet & Brunei	Transport	
36	Br Petroleum	Oil, Gas	
37	Hammerstone	Property	
38	Br Borneo	Oil, Gas	
39	IS Pathology	Industrials E-K	
40	General Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
41	Breierley Inv	Industrials A-D	
42	Swetley	Building, Roads	
43	GKN	Industrials E-K	
44	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Stock Price Change %/year %/year

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
99% 90% Times	8% 70% 7001	500	500	8.03	10.321	
100% 90% Exch	11% 100% 10000	10000	10000	10.320		
98% 91% Times	3% 100% 10002	10000	10000	3.10	8.260	
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100% 90% Times	100% 100% 10059	10000	10000	10000		
100% 90% Times	100% 100% 10060	10000	10000	10000		
100% 90% Times	100% 100% 10061	10000	10000	10000		
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100% 90% Times	10					

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

RUGBY LEAGUE

Chance for Trinity to benefit from low Wigan morale

By KEITH MACKLIN

WIGAN may be world club champions, and last season's double winners, but their defence has shown unexpected vulnerability twice this season in heavy defeats at Castleford and, on Thursday night, in the Lancashire Cup at St Helens.

This must be a considerable source of concern to the Wigan coach, John Monie, who has to lift the morale of his players for their visit to Wakefield Trinity tomorrow.

With Trinity in the bottom half of the first-division table, this game would not cause too many worries at Central Park, but Wigan's inconsistency has been such that Trinity might fancy their chances. Wigan are still without several injured players, and Thursday's bruising derby battle at Knowsley Road will have taken a heavy toll on stamina.

Leeds are at the top of the table by virtue of superior points difference, but they will do well not to underestimate Warrington who will be anxious to avenge for letting slip the match against Wakefield last week.

Kelly Sheldor, the New Zealand stand-off half, who

has been the subject of irritation within the game while being pursued by several clubs claiming his allegiance, turns for Warrington in this game at Leeds. The Warrington coach, Brian Johnson, increased by the defeat in the last seconds by Wakefield, also brings back David Lyon at full back despite the fact that Lyon wants to leave Wilderspool and is on the transfer-list. A third change in the side brings back the front-row forward, Tony Burke, for his first game of the season.

The third side in the triple tie at the top, Widnes, should not have too much difficulty accounting for Swinton, who are having the expected struggle to survive in the first division.

The deadlock continues between Widnes and Martin Offiah. The Great Britain wing, who has threatened to play American football if he is not released, says he will not play for Widnes again. Widnes have retaliated by ordering Offiah to fulfil the terms of his contract and turn up for training after being cleared of a groin injury by a specialist.

HOCKEY

Burns out of game with Italy

AUCKLAND — The Great Britain women's team is confident of making a good start when it meets Italy in the Olympic qualifying tournament, which begins here today.

However, the British suffered a setback when Jackie Burns, the left half, injured her neck in a training match against Germany and was ruled out. Britain lost to the Germans by a late goal from a penalty corner but their coach, Dennis Hay, said he would be looking for a co-ordinating victory against the Italians.

Ireland meet the pan-American champions, Argentina, but could be without their goalkeeper, Fiona Breton, who is recovering from a heavy cold.

GREAT BRITAIN (from): J Atkins (Bathurst), L Bayles, J Stenmark (Sutton Coldfield), K Brown (Brough), J Burns (Hastings), V Danson, S Lister (Ipswich), W Fraser, S Fraser, S Ramsay (Ipswich), V Williams, H Williams, K Johnson, M Nevill (Leicester, captain), J Monow (Ard), T Miller (Clifton), H Morgan (Swansea).

IRELAND (from): B Best, F Murphy, F O'Gorman (Lahinch), J Burns, G McErlane, A McLean, C Samways, G Stevens, J Turner (Ulster), B Heffernan, S Kellner (Munster), E McErroll, S Young (Connacht).

THREE teams with maximum points, Hounslow, Teddington and Welton will be in action at Fethman School tomorrow in the first division of the Pizza Express National League. The odd men out at the same venue are Indian Gymkhana who, with depleted stocks, have lost both matches so far.

Hounslow face Teddington with the memory of a 1-1 draw last year and a 2-2 draw the year before. Nevertheless, Hounslow are quietly confident after their 5-1 win last week over Old Loughtonians. Their only worry is a hand injury inflicted on Ross in the previous match.

Missing from Hounslow's defence is Hazlitt, who is not available, but Barrow, recently transferred from Indian Gymkhana, joins the squad as second-choice goalkeeper. Teddington renew their challenge, with Billson expecting to play a prominent part in attack. McGuire, the new centre forward, was until yesterday receiving treatment for a hamstring injury but is expected to play.

And Cliff Morgan and Lillian Bowden and Ray Illingworth made up the teams.

David Vine was the original question-master before handing over to David Coleman, who continues to ensure that the programme remains above all fun.

Thanks to the bigger £6 million studio, the waiting-list for tickets is down from three years to 18 months. Of all the memorable moments, the best came when Emily Hughes opined that a picture of Princess Anne was the Irish jump jockey, John Reid. The Princess got her own back in front of an 18 million audience when she threatened him with her handbag. If there is any handbagging on Tuesday it will be down to Sally Gunnell, who will be trying to help Bill Beaumont's team win its sixth successive series against Ian Botham's side.

It was in January 1970 in a deconsecrated church in Manchester that the first programme went out. George Best turned up an hour late for that one, his first meeting with Tom Finney. The original captains were Henry Cooper

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

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TOMORROW: The whole of France v Canada is live on *Screenport* from 4.30pm and *ITV* shows the second half. The Argentinian-Swiss Samoa and New Zealand-Italy games are also live on *Screenport* from 4.30pm. The BBC1 (12.45pm) golf at St Andrews is live in Grandstand (BBC1, 12.15pm).

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Magic Ring ready to profit from quick reappearance

INTEREST in the group three Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot today has been increased dramatically by the decision of Paul Cole and Anthony Penfold to run Fahd Salman's fast colt Magic Ring just six days after his gallant third in the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp.

Just as Cole's judgement was spot on when he decided to run Culture Vulture at Longchamp last Sunday comparatively soon after she had won at the Ascot festival eight days earlier, so it looks like being rewarded again.

Magic Ring's close third behind those talented older horses Keen Hunter and Sheikh Albadou at Longchamp was all the more meritorious because sore shins had prevented him racing since he won the Norfolk Stakes over today's course and distance at Royal Ascot in June.

On that occasion he beat Paris House by a length and a half with Power Lake a further three lengths adrift in third place.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Having finished a creditable fourth in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket nine days ago, Power Lake now re-appears Magic Ring but with no real chance of beating him on only 3th better terms.

Magic Ring's jockey Alan Munro also has a fair chance of winning the group three Princess Royal Stakes for Fahd Salman on the Henry Candy-trained Always Friendly, who will be meeting Nibbs Point on 3th better terms for two narrow defeats by her, at Doncaster and York.

As far as the Bovis Handicap is concerned, I like hope better than Gilt Throne who produced that storming finish to get the better of the in-form Sarcita and win a similar race at the last meeting.

A line through Sarcita gives Gilt Throne the edge over the Irish challenger Wild Jester,

who was not blessed with the best of runs on his last visit to this country before he eventually finished fourth in the Portland Handicap at Doncaster, won by Sarcita.

Henry Cecil has set a problem by running both Kingdom Of Spain and King's Loch in the Bovis Autumn Stakes, which pointed to Nashwan being a very good horse in the making three years ago.

Well as Kingdom Of Spain won on his debut at Doncaster, I still marginally prefer King's Loch, who went about his business nicely on his debut at Nottingham before winning at Sandown.

Otherwise, it should pay to follow Steve Caithron again on Sarcita (4.10), who bounced back to form in some style at the last Ascot meeting, and Jeune (4.40).

Having finished such a creditable second to Showbiz in the Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury, Jeune is now napped to win the slightly longer Hyperion Stakes. I'm sure that today's trip will suit him even better.

3.50 CARLING BLACK LABEL NOVICES CHASE (22,228; 21m 4f) (6 runners)

MANDARIN 2.20 Vision, 2.50 Western Dandy, 3.20 Redgrave Girl, 3.50 Lynemore, 4.20 Bean Pari, 4.50 Sweet Duke.

THUNDERER 2.20 Invicta D'Honneur, 2.50 Monumental Lad, 3.20 Old Eros, 3.30 Rocktor, 4.20 Cougars Run, 4.50 Sweet Duke.

GOING: GOOD

2.20 MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS SALES BRYN LEWIS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,803; 2m) (15 runners)

1 410 JUST A MEMORY (D,F,G) R Manning 5-11-18 C Maude 2 413 LAUGHING (D,F,G) Mrs G Hart 5-11-18 C Lewinsey 3 000 INVITE D'YONNER 180 Mrs S Clark 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

4 400 CUTIN DRY 270 (D,F,G) A Ridder 5-11-18 A Proctor (7) 5 200 PANTHEON 204 (D,F,G) Mrs P Joyce 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

6 224 PONTEVECCIO BELLA 3 (D,G) S. Lukas 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

7 600 TRUE BRIT 180 (D,F,G) S Pocham 5-11-18 Peter Hobbs

8 504 SAXON LAD 9 (D,F,G) Mrs H Punter 5-11-18 P Scudamore

9 021 ROCKTOR 165 (D,F,G) S. Lukas 5-11-18 A Smith (3)

10 495 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

11 496 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

12 497 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

13 498 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

14 499 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

15 500 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

16 501 YATON GUARD 95 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

17 502 MOE GREENE 177 (D,F,G) J McConachie 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

18 503 DEPARTURE 12 (D,F,G) J. Jackson 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

19 504 ROSSMACH 386 (D,F,G) B Powell 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

20 505 OUR DUTY 240 (D,F,G) Codd 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

21 506 STORMY 44 (D,F,G) S. Lukas 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

22 507 TRUTH 400 (D,F,G) C Smith 5-11-18 C Lewinsey

23 508 BASS SPECIAL HANDICAP CHASE (22,066; 2m) (21) (10)

1 38P. KNOCKBACK 151 (C,D,F,G) G Hart 11-18 C Lewinsey

2 111 PANTHEON 386 (D,F,G) A Bawson 11-18 C Lewinsey

3 513 SIRBATH JAY 185 (D,G) G Bading 11-18 C Lewinsey

4 120 MONUMENTAL LAD 214 (D,G) Mrs H Punter 11-18 C Lewinsey

5 58P. ROYAL CRACKER 10 (D,F,G) B Powell 11-18 C Lewinsey

6 743 WESTERN DANDY 322 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

7 513 PICK ROUNDTIME 202 (D,F,G) Peter Hobbs

8 65P. GOOD SEDUL 70 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

9 114 WESTERN DANDY, 7-2 Monumental Lad, 8-2 Pantechnic, 8-1 Knockback, 8-1 Sirbath Jay, 10-1 Royal Cracker, 14-1 others.

3.20 MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS SALES HURDLE (4,324; 2m 4f) (10)

1 210 CHAMPAGNE LAD 217 (D,F,G) G Hart 11-18 C Lewinsey

2 260 KNOCKBACK 151 (D,F,G) G Hart 11-18 C Lewinsey

3 182 OLD EROS 58 (C,D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

4 112 APOLLO KING 20 (D,F,G) Mrs R Tiss 11-18 C Lewinsey

5 111 SADDLES NIGHT 978 (D,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

6 03U. TIBER RIVER 260 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

7 306 GODS FOX 163 (D,F,G) B Powell 11-18 C Lewinsey

8 110 TAKE ISSUE 39 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

9 44P. STORMY 44 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

10 45P. BASS SPECIAL HURDLE 222 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

11 45P. DEPARTURE 12 (D,F,G) J Jackson 11-18 C Lewinsey

12 45P. ROSSMACH 386 (D,F,G) B Powell 11-18 C Lewinsey

13 45P. OUR DUTY 240 (D,F,G) Codd 11-18 C Lewinsey

14 45P. STORMY 44 (D,F,G) S. Lukas 11-18 C Lewinsey

15 45P. TRUTH 400 (D,F,G) C Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

16 45P. BASS SPECIAL HURDLE 222 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

17 45P. DEPARTURE 12 (D,F,G) J Jackson 11-18 C Lewinsey

18 45P. ROSSMACH 386 (D,F,G) B Powell 11-18 C Lewinsey

19 45P. OUR DUTY 240 (D,F,G) Codd 11-18 C Lewinsey

20 45P. STORMY 44 (D,F,G) S. Lukas 11-18 C Lewinsey

21 45P. TRUTH 400 (D,F,G) C Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

22 45P. BASS SPECIAL HURDLE 222 (D,F,G) Mrs A Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

23 45P. DEPARTURE 12 (D,F,G) J Jackson 11-18 C Lewinsey

24 45P. ROSSMACH 386 (D,F,G) B Powell 11-18 C Lewinsey

25 45P. OUR DUTY 240 (D,F,G) Codd 11-18 C Lewinsey

26 45P. STORMY 44 (D,F,G) S. Lukas 11-18 C Lewinsey

27 45P. TRUTH 400 (D,F,G) C Smith 11-18 C Lewinsey

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29 45P. DEPARTURE 12 (D,F,G) J Jackson 11-18 C Lewinsey

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62 45P. STORMY 44 (D,F,G) S. Lukas 11-18 C Lewinsey

63 45P. TRUTH 400 (D,F,G) C

A chance for two to watch the final



THE TIMES today teams with Johnson Matthey to present a competition with a special first prize: a pair of tickets for the Rugby World Cup final at Twickenham on November 2. Also, for each of the 500 runners-up, there will be a solid silver "official supporters' medal".

Johnson Matthey has been selected to mint the medals for the World Cup, including winners' medals in platinum, which will be designated as the metal of the century.

The silver medals are being marketed as mementoes of rugby union's greatest month. For further information about them, telephone E and J Budd Ltd (071 820 1666, Saturday) or Johnson Matthey (071 269 8265, Monday to Friday).

To enter the competition, study the questions below, write your answers on the entry form and send it (to arrive by October 21) to: Johnson Matthey competition, Sports Department, **THE TIMES**, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct entry drawn from all those received by October 21. The runners-up will be the senders of the next five correct entries opened.

THE QUESTIONS

- Which country taking part in the 1991 World Cup final stages did not play in the inaugural tournament?
- Against whom did Italy record their only win in the 1987 World Cup?



3. Name the French player, above, who set an individual points-scoring record of 30 during the 1987 tournament?

4. Which country is seeded eighth in the 1991 World Cup?

5. Which Italian club does David Campese play for?

ENTRY FORM

Name	ANSWERS
Address	1
Telephone	2
	3
	4
	5

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Employees (and their relatives) of **THE TIMES** Newspapers Ltd, Johnson Matthey or their agents are not eligible for entry. Sports editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

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Wales must call on character

By GERALD DAVIES

ELSEWHERE they already know their fate in the Rugby World Cup. Not in Pool 3, though. But then this group was always going to be trouble. And, even today, its mind will not be made up. So, which teams will go forward to the quarter-finals will not be resolved when Wales meet Australia at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon.

Only the result of the match between Argentina and Western Samoa, at Pontypool tomorrow, will settle the issue. Everything will be clear if both Australia and Western Samoa win, but a try count will be necessary if there is any deviation from this.

The lifeline which the victory against Argentina gave Wales is thin. But this is better than none at all. These, for goodness' sake, are difficult times.

The Welsh performance on Wednesday was heroic of its kind, even if vulnerable. Considering the desperate depths from which they were emerging and the overwhelming emptiness they must have felt after defeat by Western Samoa last Sunday, victory was an extraordinary blessing. Why, at this stage, should Wales ask for more — or anybody else, for that matter, demand more of them?

There was an aptness that Wales, having given so much to the game in the past and recently having eaten enough bread of humiliation, should for the moment suffer no more. To celebrate the performance, however briefly, might not have been worthy of a glass of vintage, so familiar are the errors, but draught went down sweetly enough.

If the match did not rage away as some of us would have liked, the brief, intense roar of triumph and relief which greeted Arnold's try on Wednesday was a jubilant explosion of a deep-seated yearning for the good things. Among the burly-bury, I hope the players heard it.

As a result of constant failure, the criticism becomes unbearable and the players begin to see the spectre of



Survival instinct: the skill and determination shown by Lewis is something Wales need throughout their team

enemies everywhere. They need reassurance. Those rare seconds of indulgence from the crowd should have given it to them.

Today, Wales, as they face the grim-visaged men opposite, must grit their teeth once again. For they have yet to prove there is as much skill as character in the team. No native genius informs this Welsh side; they have too few outstanding players. Robert Jones certainly is one; Emrys Lewis is a player growing into his place, as is Webster when he is less impulsive. Evans

and Emrys can be relied upon to do their stuff on the wing. Others need to persuade Australia there is danger in their eyes, too.

The only changes from Wednesday's game is that Tony Clement is restored to full back and Mike Rayer is now replacement instead of Steve Ford.

There is nothing evenly balanced about this afternoon's encounter, though. Wales' forebodings are well-founded. Australia themselves say as much. There is no modesty here.

Australia do not go in for much wishful thinking. They did, once, some years ago, when rugby mattered less. Nowadays, they are practical men of the rugby world. And they showed this in their power and discipline in their conditions at Pontypool Park.

They have shown it, too, in selecting Eales in the second row and moving Ofahengaue to the No. 8 position. Eales is a fine player but one still in the making and, as should be expected of one so young, he has not the authority just yet for the middle of the back row.

They have played only fitfully so far, the summer's swagger has yet to appear. They promise it will be back.

And there is still a chance for Argentina to qualify, in the scenario above, with them beating Western Samoa and Wales losing to Australia and, Australia having beaten Western Samoa, and Wales losing to Western Samoa. The next

stage would be the number of tries scored in those matches: Wales and Western Samoa tied 2-2, and Australia and Western Samoa tied 0-0. The next stage would be the total number of tries scored in the pool matches; so far, Australia have scored five, Wales three.

There is even hope for Wales if they lose to Australia and then Western Samoa lose to Argentina. That would leave Wales, Western Samoa and Argentina with five points each (one win and two defeats). The critical factor would be the number of tries scored in matches between those three countries: Australia 2-2 and Argentina 1-1. In total, there would be seven points (two wins and one defeat). The positions would then be decided on results between the three countries; that would still leave them level. Western Samoa having beaten Wales, Wales having beaten Australia, and Australia having beaten Western Samoa. The next

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Mabbutt poised for an England return

Taylor is irked by slogan which may encourage Turkey

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS IF the problems caused by injury were not enough, Graham Taylor, the England manager, has another worry. He has been irritated by a newspaper advertisement which suggests that his side should overwhelm Turkey in the European championship qualifying tie at Wembley on Wednesday.

The headline, above an invitation to apply for tickets, reads: "This time just winning won't be enough."

Designed by Saatchi and Saatchi, it was issued from Wembley apparently without the approval of the Football Association. Taylor himself was not consulted and described it as "disappointing, unnecessary and disrespectful to the opposition".

He believed it to be as provocative as the jeering of the foreign national anthem. "That lifts the opposition because it makes them even

more determined to show what they can do. This could have the same effect."

Under the circumstances, it is as well that his attack is still comparatively healthy. Hirst, who would not have started anyway, is the only forward to have withdrawn. Yet, Taylor estimates that no fewer than 11 of his potential central defenders are injured and have dropped out.

Pallister is the latest confirmed casualty and Adams is still not certain to be available, although his groin strain is not so troublesome before a game as after it. The indications are that Mabbutt, the Tottenham Hotspur captain, will benefit from the absence and from Taylor's selection policy.

Although he chose to promote the younger generation against the Turks in Izmir five months ago, he will now turn to elder statesmen against the same opposition at home.

FA confirms AA deal

THE Football Association confirmed yesterday that the England squad is to be sponsored for £100,000 for the next three years by American Airways (Stuart Jones writes). The team will be flown to fixtures in the United States and beyond, but not in Europe, until the World Cup finals there in 1994.

Criticism of the FA's decision to accept an offer from a foreign

airline is misguided. British Airways, who have been reluctant to be involved with football teams, asked for £200,000 to fly to Cagliari last summer. Virgin Airways were also approached but Richard Branson's response was initially cool. His marketing representative subsequently failed to attend a meeting which had been arranged with the FA.

Lumsden steps in to protect players

By CLIVE WHITE

JIMMY Lumsden, the Bristol City manager, yesterday took the extraordinary step of leaving two players out of his team to protect them against abuse from home supporters. Keith Welch, the goalkeeper, and Robert Edwards, a young midfield player, will thus miss today's meeting with Watford at Ashton Gate.

Edwards was one of two players allegedly spat upon by City supporters after the Rumbelows Cup defeat by Bristol Rovers on Tuesday. "I am not prepared to let my young players put up with that sort of abuse," Lumsden said.

John Beck, the Cambridge United manager, is expecting his club's supporters to smother his team with something quite different — gratitude — when they take the field at the Abbey Stadium against Sunderland. "I just hope our supporters take a look at this week's fixtures and

really appreciate how much our team have achieved," Beck said. As well as exterminating the ailing northeast giants, Cambridge played host this week to Manchester United, the League leaders, and held them to a 1-1 draw to a Rumbelows Cup second-round tie.

Two years ago this week, Cambridge were next to bottom of the fourth division. This morning they stand fourth in the second division, poised perhaps to become a founder member of the Premier League.

Swindon Town are proving, as they did under Osvaldo Ardiles two seasons ago, that "Route One" is not the only way to reach the top and that there are long balls and long balls. However, Hoddle, the Swindon player-manager and master of the long pass played to feet, tore a thigh muscle last Saturday and will be missing from the match at the County Ground against Derby County.

TENNIS

Super series attacked by an ATP member

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING member of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) has criticised the decision by the ATP to set up a new series of nine \$1.7 million "super" tournaments in 1993. Graham Lovett, the only one of the six members of the ATP tour board to vote against the proposals, yesterday advised the ATP not to compete with the grand slams. Some of the nine tournaments could face serious financial problems, which would weaken, not strengthen, the tour, he said.

"There is some feeling about challenging the grand slams by offering grand slam type money. But that's a mistake. The grand slams are out there in front and are going to stay there."

"The lift from the old level of \$1 million prize money in \$1.7 million is just too much. I don't think the money is available in

the market place," he said. Lovett, tournament director of the recent Australian indoor championships in Sydney, not one of the nine, is also concerned that the top ten players might not sign the contracts, which offer bonuses of up to \$1.25 million to play in eight of the nine events. "I've spoken to some of them and they have mixed feelings about it. Attempts to force players to do things have not been very successful in the past," he said.

Lovett's comments highlight a division in ATP ranks over the series, which has five tournaments in Europe, four in North America and one in Australia, one of the game's biggest growth areas. "It's a step backwards," he said. "The tour has been truly international. Now it's turning into Europe v North America."

IN BRIEF

Brundle at Benetton
MARTIN Brundle, who has driven all season for the struggling Brabham Formula One motor racing team, will be joining Benetton for 1992, alongside Michael Schumacher.

Brundle's move means that Nelson Piquet, three times a world champion, is in search of a driving seat for next season. Ivan Capelli has also been released by Leyton House.

SNOKER: John Parrott removed any lingering doubts about his worthiness as world champion by beating Tony Knowles 9-3 in the final of the Dubai Duty Free Classic, the opening ranking tournament of the 1991-2 season, last night.

BASEBALL: The Atlanta Braves beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0 to level their best-of-seven National League championship series at 1-1.

BASKETBALL: Alton Byrd was yesterday discharged from

Kingston Hospital, where he had been kept under observation after collapsing on court following Kingston's 173-150 European Cup aggregate defeat against Mechelen on Thursday night. He was allowed out on the condition that he takes no part in Kingston's matches at the weekend.

NETBALL: Boris Becker and Andre Agassi were both beaten in the quarter-finals of an indoor tournament in Tokyo, by Derrick Rosenthal and Goran Ivanisevic respectively.

MODERN PENTATHLON: The holders, Poland, and Britain are among a record entry of 17 teams contesting the women's world championship in Sydney from October 27 to November 2. The field may increase to 18 if South Africa's participation is confirmed on Monday.

ATHLETICS: Disgraced Canadian sprinter, Ben Johnson, has parted company with Clyd Duncan, his third trainer since he began his comeback from a two-year suspension for drug abuse.

ATLANTIC: The Atlanta Braves beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0 to level their best-of-seven National League championship series at 1-1.

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GOLF

JOHN MABBUTT

Eagles swoop on defence to end their Rugby World Cup campaign dignified in defeat

England's flying start stalls

England 37
 United States 9

By DAVID HANDS
 RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE American way may not earn the United States too many victories at this level of competition but nobody at a packed Twickenham yesterday could complain at the whole-hearted defence which restricted England, in their final Pool 1 game of the World Cup, to a win by four goals, a try and three penalty goals to a goal and a penalty.

However, an exercise in damage limitation is all it was. There was never a doubt that England would both qualify for the quarter-finals and mark Will Carling's 22nd appearance as captain — overtaking Bill Beaumont's record — with victory. Indeed, Carling took the opportunity to make his own mark, scoring his first international try since February 1990.

The English management and players can now take their rest and recreation in Jersey and concentrate on next Saturday's game in Paris; they will watch the telecast of tomorrow's game in Agen between France and Canada with particular interest, anticipating French opposition at Parc des Princes and knowing they will have to elevate their standard of play considerably from what they have achieved in their pool.

In fact, yesterday they played some of their undities rugby of the tournament, on either side of half-time: Andrew was uncharacteristically loose in his line kicking and some of the passing left players begging to be knocked over — which they were — by a physical American defence. Nonetheless, the pressure under which the United States came can be seen by the penalty count of 26-9 against them, far too many of which were conceded by Flay, the New Zealand-born hooker, who was so often outside.

Games that one side is expected to win overwhelmingly can frequently prove difficult, as New Zealand



POOL 1 TABLE

	POOL	W	L	F	A	PTS
England	3	2	0	185	33	7
New Zealand	2	2	0	84	18	6
Italy	2	1	0	136	45	4
US	3	0	0	324	113	3

World Cup rugby, page 38

discovered against the same opponents. If England thought that they were going to romp away after scoring 12 points in as many minutes, they were sorely mistaken; the Eagles, who fly home this morning without a win, were not to be grounded at rugby's headquarters without a display full of national pride.

Its apex came just after half-time when Pidcock, their lively scrum half, skipped away to relieve a period of some intensity. Ridnell's lineout win allowed Williams to create hesitation between Andrew and Carling. Hein careered in from the blind-side wing and Nelson was free, with Sheehy in support, as he scored against a defence which had a goal and a penalty.

"It was hard to keep concentration for any length of time," Carling said. "That was because of the mix of players coming in for their first game and desperate to impress, and several who were playing their third game in nine days, and may have been a bit lacklustre." Whatever the reason, England found it hard to impose themselves at the set pieces, the lineouts — of which there were comparatively few — remaining level until the final quarter when Redman and Dooley overcame the challenge of Swords and Tunnicliffe.

The Americans also profited from quick feeds at the scrums, but Hodgkinson proved equal to the demands



Making short work: Hill, the England scrum half, powers his way past Williams at Twickenham yesterday

placed on him by the kicking from half back. Indeed, Hodgkinson was one of those coming into the team whose footballing skills stood out; his match return was 17 points (he missed only two kicks) and since he laid on both Underwood's tries, he underscored England's strength at full back. His first two penalties came either side of a try which had touches of farce about it: Andrew recognised an early chance to run the ball and Hodgkinson slid a lovely kick parallel with the east touchline. Williams looked to have it covered but the American centre failed to gather the ball at the corner, leaving Underwood with one of the simpler

of his 31 international tries. Underwood was involved, too, in the second try; he came off his wing to carve through the midfield before Carling, with hint of a dummy, crossed by the posts. The United States looked for encouragement to Williams and O'Brien, their place-kickers, but Williams could land only one of three attempts to leave the side trailing 21-3 at the interval.

If this had been a boxing match, the third quarter would have been the United States's on points, but points in any number were what they were covered but the American centre failed to gather the ball at the corner, leaving Underwood with one of the simpler

presence throughout, scored close to the scrum after supporting Hill's break close to the line, and the scrum half was twice involved before Heslop cut back against the grain of the defence for a try under the posts.

The United States, who had replaced Higgins at the interval, introduced Wilkerson for his first cap but when Farley limped off when their thunderous tackling sustained them until deep into injury-time, when they were drawn to the right before Hodgkinson, in a series of passes, placed a precise diagonal for Underwood, on his wrong wing, to touch down. It was, you might say, an encouraging day for wings

be they those of England or of Eagles.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Underwood (2), Carling, Skinner, Heslop, Conner, Hodkinson (2), Penalties: Hodgkinson (3), Stand-up Try: Skinner. Conversion: Williams. Penalty: Williams. ENGLAND: S O Hodgkinson (Nottingham), N J Heslop (Oxford), W D C Carling (Nottingham), S J Skinner (Nottingham), R Underwood (Nottingham), C R Andrew (Worcester), R J Hill (Bath), J Leonard (Nottingham), C J Ower (Nottingham), G S Pearce (Nottingham), M G S Williams (Nottingham), G A Dallman (Nottingham), W A M Dallman (Preston Grasshoppers), G W Rees (Nottingham), B Richards (Leicester). UNITED STATES: D B Nelson (Baltimore), S G Higgins (Oldham), M A Higgins (Oldham), C J Wilkerson (Nottingham), C P O'Brien (Oldham), M G Pfeiffer (Preston), L Mangi (South Jersey), A W Flory (Jersey Shore), N Mottram (Boulder), S Rothery (Nottingham), C P Farley (Philadelphia Whitemarsh), C P Wilkerson (Baltimore Shore), A M Redden (Oldham Pumas), R. H. Redden (Oldham Pumas), R. H. Redden (Oldham Pumas). Referee: L J Parris (Wales).

Victors express the need to improve

By PETER BILLS

ENGLAND'S reaction to victory yesterday was somewhat reserved. "There is a world of difference between the two games we have played this week (against Italy and the United States) and what we will face in a week's time in the quarter-final," the manager, Geoff Cooke, said.

"This display fell a little short of expectations as regards our performance. The players know that sort of performance won't be good enough to beat France."

Roger Utley, the coach, looked equally bereft of elation. "After the first quarter we fell away and played fitfully," he said. "We had problems maintaining any real continuity." Will Carling, the captain, felt that his team had eased off at vital moments.

Neither did England's performance impress the United States coach, Jim Perkins. It fell a long way short, he felt, of the standard reached by New Zealand in their game against the Americans at Gloucester on Tuesday. "We

were very much surprised New Zealand in the first 20 minutes and caught them unawares. They took a little time to regroup but they are very good at sorting out their problems and getting back on track. They are like a machine grinding you down."

"I didn't see that from England. In the second half they showed a little panic when we put some pressure on them. It was a more inconsistent display by England compared to the All Blacks."

The Americans leave Gatwick today, homeward

bound after an experience described as "invaluable" by their manager, Ed Schram. "We have learned the level we need to have to compete. But I think we have shown the Eagles are able to play good rugby for an extended time throughout the year."

The lack of regular quality opposition blamed by Schram for his team's modest display may be remedied in future if the United States continue with invitations to the leading countries. Italy, Spain and Korea have all been invited for tours next year.

A lament for the out-of-tune terrace choristers

You're not singing anymore, this terrace reproof can now be addressed to the entire Welsh nation. There was little enough to sing about after the Welsh rugby team's defeat by the shockingly mighty men of Western Samoa, and I am assured that even before the match began, the singing of the national anthem was flat. One Welshman blamed the closure of the mines: there's nothing to sing on the way to any more. But I seem to be pursued by bad Welsh singing: in Monaco last week, the followers of Swansea City football club all seem to have lost their country's musical heritage. They gave us not anthems and harmonies, but "We ate Cardiff".

And the English singing at the Rugby World Cup has been even more dire. Why does there have to be this incessant vocal display of sexual parts in "rugby songs" in pubs after matches? You would not think people would dare to behave in such a fashion, at least not in public, in a post-Freudian world.

Now Ladbrokes are trying to do something about this by organising a competition for the best male voice choir from any rugby club in the United Kingdom. So far so good. Now for the bad news: the competition is for the best rendition of *Top of the World* by The Carpenters. Perhaps the Welsh team will have a crack at it after its match against Australia this afternoon.

□ **MORE** on music. The BBC, not only guilty a thousand times over of the exploitation of music in a sporting context, has now won an award for it. Now they will never stop. Yup, BBC Television Sport has won a special mention in the Golden Podium award in Monaco — Pele was one of the judges — for the inevitable slo-mo sequence. This time the subject was Gazzza, and it was shown one hour before the Cup Final, the

match in which Gazzza exploded himself. The music was Nina Simone singing. Please don't let me be misunderstood.

4000-run prodigy

And now, with November and the dreaded turning back of the clocks in sight, I bring you a last breath of summer. Marcus Trescothick needed two runs off the final ball of the

summer to reach a phenomenal 4,000 runs for the season. Trescothick is aged 15, and was playing for Keynsham cricket club. He needed 85 to reach this ludicrous target when his innings began. This score on 83, he faced the final ball. Playing one of the better shots in my own repertoire, he edged the ball along the ground to the wicketkeeper. He went for the single anyway, which would have given him 3,999. But the keeper, kind fellow, shied at the stumps, missed, and Trescothick had an extra run for the overthrow and that patriarchal aggregate. I wonder if he will live the rest of his life in the shadow of his anus mirabilis. He says his ambition is to play for Somerset.

□ **WHEN** The Times speaks, the world acts. Last summer this newspaper suggested in a leading article that football's problems could be overcome if the goal were made larger. Now football, as represented by the New England Small College Athletic Conference, has gone ahead and done so. It now plays with goals four feet bigger than standard. America's Sports Illustrated magazine comments: "A fundamen-

tal change on the most popular sport in the world seems ill-advised."

Exiles excel

Rugby team of the week: London Cornish. This season, this gathering of exiles has managed to put out a third XV for the first time in its history. They are not finding it all smooth sailing. They gathered in a pub before a fixture, they were confidently expected to lose 40-0. They then discovered they had no kit, no transport, and only 13 players. They organised a whirlwind convoy of taxis and private cars, arrived at the opponents' ground only slightly embarrassingly late, and promptly demanded to see the lost property box. The indomitable XIII — a good number for a rugby side — played in whatever lost and smelly items of kit they could lay their hands on, and fought heroically, losing by a mere 10-0.

Feeble Keble disgraced by Weston snub

By Peter Roebuck, the Cambridge blue and former captain of Somerset County Cricket Club

tutors were made of sterner stuff.

Weston was forced to deny one of his talents. Forget that he is a cricketer, or a sportsman, suppose instead, he was a ballet dancer or a musician, for the arguments are just the same. After years of graft, here was an opportunity to lead his country overseas, an opportunity which might never be repeated. To Keble's surprise, no, shock, Weston turned his back on Oxford and decided to tour anyhow. Hayes called his decision "misguided", a reaction awesome in its arrogance.

Weston made the right decision because obviously Oxford was no place for an all-rounder. A man had either to be a blood or an aesthete. Keble had expected Weston to take the longer view but few 18-year-olds will do this and, anyway, was it not an Oxford man who pointed out that in the long run we are all dead?

Now let us be clear about this. Weston has failed no exams. Not one. Other universities, including Cambridge and Durham, regularly release students on such occasions, for universities are not merely about grim toil and, anyhow, if every student who missed a few lectures was ejected campuses would rapidly empty. And if toil was everything, universities might grow too dull even for Dr Hayes.

Durham has allowed James Boiling, Martin Speight and Nasser Hussain (all twice) to join tours and all passed their exams with flying colours. Durham is allowing Jeremy Snape to join his peers in Pakistan where, no doubt, he will grow space.

Philip Weston wanted no favours and now wants no fuss because he is not the complaining sort. Next year he plans to go to Cambridge, Keble having rejected him if he went on tour. Apparently, too, Keble is keen to rise up the Norrington table, measuring examination success. Time was when senior

Philip Weston wanted no favours and now wants no fuss because he is not the complaining sort. Next year he plans to go to Cambridge, Keble having rejected him if he went on tour. Apparently, too, Keble is keen to rise up the Norrington table, measuring examination success. Time was when senior

Gascoigne confident of proving fitness

PAUL GASCOIGNE predicted in a television interview last night that he would be playing by mid-April — six weeks before the deadline set for proving his fitness to Lazio, his prospective employers (Clive White writes).

Speaking on *Sky Sports* about his proposed £5.5 million transfer, he said: "When you see me worried, you'll know the deal is off. The deal is not off."

Gascoigne said that the latest injury suffered to his

damaged knee had put his recovery back a further month and a half and that the specialists had been planning for him to return to competitive action at the end of January.

"The main thing is just resting now," he said. "In general it is well. The bend looks good, it looks solid, and it just a matter of waiting for the bone to heal so I can get working."

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Nina Simone: voice over

Sporting life
How splendid it is, in a changing world, to realise that the archetypal of the competitor who gives up the chance of victory to help a stricken opponent is still alive and well. They even give awards for it, which I think is rather

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